

# the otherpress

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photo of a lizard on a chair by @neechescreem

Chandler Walter

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# NEWS

Have an idea for a story?  
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  - ✓ University-to-university conflict turns viral
  - ✓ Douglas College receives performing arts award
- And more!*



Photos by Analyn Cuarto and Jerrison Oracion

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

Analyn Cuarto  
Staff Photographer

## CBC Open House 2017

It's CBC Open House, and that means raising money and accepting food donations for the food banks in the Lower Mainland while seeing your favourite CBC personalities. See if you can recognize some of them in these pictures. Photos by Jerrison Oracion and Analyn Cuarto.







Photo by Analyn Cuarto



Photo by Colten Kamlade

# Indigenous garden unveiled at New Westminster campus

> Medicines to be planted in spring

Colten Kamlade  
Staff Reporter

A new garden bed was officially revealed to students and staff at the New Westminster campus on November 30.

Nothing is currently growing in the garden, but in the spring it will be seeded with plants that have special significance to Indigenous cultures.

Amelia McComber, an Indigenous elder, shared her knowledge during a presentation and tour of the new garden.

"My talk today is about the relationship between us, the people, and the medicines. So we have four sacred medicines that were given to

us, were gifted to us," she said.

McComber described the importance of tobacco—which will be planted in the new garden—to indigenous cultures.

"Tobacco is the first [medicine,] and tobacco is the first according to our people because after our creation story [...] the creator blessed the whole creation story by allowing tobacco to come first. So, in our culture, and other cultures, tobacco is given first before you ask any spiritual elder or anyone to do any customary spiritual work," she said.

According to the creation story, sage is the second medicine given by the creator. McComber described its use in traditional medicine.

"If someone has a negative

thought towards you, they just have to think it about you and sometimes if you're weak and if you aren't centered, sometimes that negative energy will attach to you and will somehow affect you," she said. "Sage is used primarily to help detach those things."

The third medicine McComber discussed was cedar.

"The next is cedar, and of course cedar comes from this territory," she said. "The cedar would travel down to New Mexico, Albuquerque New Mexico. That was the hub trading place where everything was traded. Then it would be distributed and again come up the five trails of North America."

The fourth medicine that will be

included in the Indigenous garden is sweetgrass. McComber described the symbolism surrounding the plant.

"It has an aroma and a fragrance that is very unique, when it burns it smells sweet, and when you hold it, it smells very sweet as well," she said. "The teaching around sweetgrass is that it is to remind us that life is good; life is sweet and we are to accept that that sweetness is a part of us."

The garden bed was built by Architek at cost, and the funds were provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education. In the spring there may be opportunities for students and staff to participate in the planting of the garden, so keep an eye on the Douglas College calendar of events.

# Study examines social isolation in Metro Vancouver

> 30 per cent of young adults said they are 'almost always' alone

Jake Wray  
News Editor

Young adults and people from low-income households are more susceptible to loneliness than other demographics in Metro Vancouver, according to a new study.

The Vancouver Foundation, an organization that promotes community engagement, recently released its 2017 Connect and Engage report—an online survey of 3,785 adults in Metro Vancouver that asked questions about loneliness, community participation, and digital socializing.

According to the report, 30 per cent of survey respondents age 18 to 24 said they are "almost always" or "often" alone, as did 38 per cent of adults from households with incomes under \$20,000 per year, compared to an average of 14 per cent of respondents across all demographics. Those two demographics are also more likely to report spending more time alone than they would like, according to data from the survey. On the other hand, 57 per cent of respondents said they are happy with the amount of time they spend alone, while 18 per cent said they would like to spend more time alone.

Kevin McCort, CEO and president of the Vancouver Foundation, said in a press release that while some people

feel loneliness more than others, the report also found that people are willing to engage with their communities.

"Our new findings show that while everyone experiences the same barriers to forging strong connections—work, school, financial constraints, and time pressure all play a role—some experience this more acutely," McCort said in the press release. "But what's encouraging to see is how open residents are to coming together as a community—even more so among those who have lived here for a shorter period of time."

Approximately 75 per cent of respondents attempt to better their community with activities such as shovelling snow and picking up litter. Conversely, the study found a significant decrease in participation with "traditional" community activities, compared to a similar study conducted by the Vancouver Foundation in 2012. 58 per cent of respondents in the 2017 survey said they visited their local library, down from 83 per cent in 2012. 22 per cent of respondents in the 2017 survey said they attended religious services, down from 40 per cent in 2012.

The study also examined how people use digital tools to socialize. 60 per cent of participants said they prefer socializing in person instead of online, and 17 per cent said they spend too much time online, to the detriment of their in-person relationships.





# Douglas College embroiled in meme war

› University-to-university conflict turns viral

Katie Czenczek  
Staff Writer

It was only a matter of time until UBC and SFU students took to social media to wage an all-out war.

What started out as a post on Facebook became a conflict between the two local university, as students from both schools began to post memes to insult the opposing university. Using Twitter and Facebook as their platforms, both the UBC Confessions group and the SFU Confessions group saw students anonymously post memes, tagging one another in jabs against the other school. The memes ranged in topics, each discussing the problems with either university. Some were more lighthearted, poking fun at the high tuition costs of UBC, or claiming SFU students are only at SFU because they weren't admitted to UBC. Others discussed topics such as UBC's alleged reputation for campus sexual assaults.

BCIT, UVIC, and other British Columbian universities and colleges were also mentioned in the flurry of memes posted.

Douglas College was also mentioned and thrown into the fire as a bystander of the war of memes. Douglas College Confessions fired back, posting memes with captions such as "watching your neighbours fight on the street," accompanied by

a photo of Homer Simpson looking out of his window suspiciously.

Amber-Rose Hemm, a Douglas College student who saw the events unfold on social media, said in an interview with the Other Press that she enjoyed watching the meme war from a bystander's perspective.

"It was fun sitting by the sidelines watching with popcorn as the other schools fought each other," she said.

When asked what she thought Douglas College Confessions should post in order to respond to the memes, Hemm said that she would like to see some posts about how UBC and SFU students are paying significantly higher costs for the exact same education.

"I just don't get it. They pay ridiculously higher tuition fees for the same education. That's the biggest thing [Douglas College students] have to shoot back at [UBC and SFU] is the stupidly expensive costs of going to either university," Hemm said.

Stephanie Malundo, another Douglas College student, did not personally see the memes but said that she liked the idea of a meme war between the competing schools.

"It's a harmless joke that can be something fun to do. Everyone loves a good laugh, especially at this time of the year with finals wrapping up. I wish that I got to see it while they were still posting a tonne," she said.

when you hear people arguing in your street..



Meme via Douglas confessions on Facebook

# Douglas College receives performing arts award

› \$38,000 donation will fund additional theatre activities

Colten Kamlade  
Staff Reporter

The Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society presented Douglas College with two awards after the final curtain of *The Diviners*—the latest production put on by the departments of theatre and stagecraft and event technology.

The Award of Distinction came along with \$38,000 in funds for future programs. In a press release this week, Leanne Poon, executive director of the Douglas College Foundation, expressed gratitude to the Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society.

"Thanks to the Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society and the Burr 100 Committee, this award will support performing arts, stagecraft, and event technology students for generations to come," she said in the press release.

During the evening, one individual in particular was honoured. Nelson Ellis was presented with the 2017 Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society 2nd Year Entrance Award of Distinction. Ellis played the role of C.C. Showers in *The Diviners*, a play set in a small Indiana town during The Great Depression. The story follows the friendship of Showers, an ex-preacher, and Buddy, an intellectually disabled teenager who has the ability to divine water. The play was written by Jim Leonard Jr. and was produced in 1980.

The Douglas College website described Ellis as possessing some of

Raymond Burr's most impressive qualities.

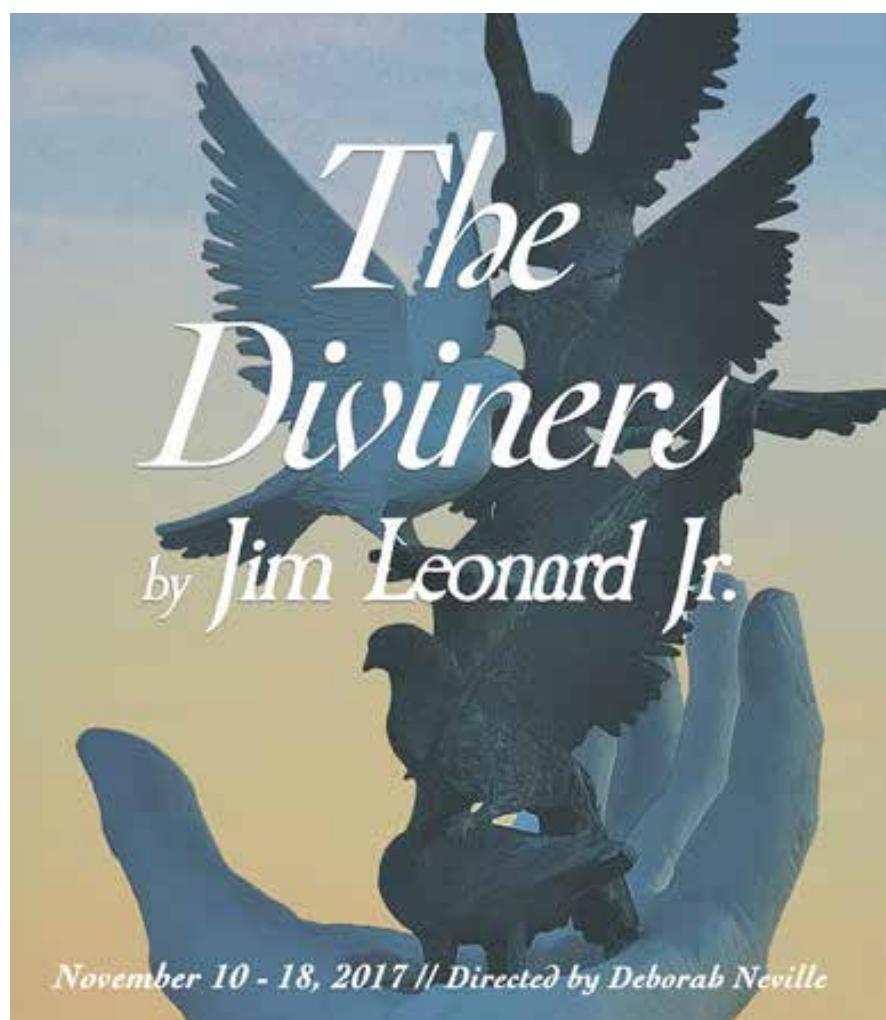
"[Ellis] demonstrated outstanding achievement in his studies, course work, and performance, and emulates the passion, commitment, and talent of Raymond Burr," states the website. The awards were presented by Edward Eddy, Michelle Sereda, and Maureen Albanese—members of the Burr 100 Committee—during an evening hosted by the Douglas College Foundation and Alumni Association. The evening was sponsored by Canadian Western Savings.

The Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society is named after the New Westminster-born actor, famous for his roles in television series such as *Perry Mason* and *Ironside*, and for his parts in radio shows like *Fort Laramie*, where he played the part of Captain Lee Quince.

According to an article by ABC News, Burr was also famous for his kindness.

"[He] contributed generously to charitable causes" and "sponsored foster children from Korea and Italy," ABC News reported.

According to the Douglas College website, the student cast of *The Diviners* includes Nelson Ellis (New Westminster), Marina Cindrich (Vancouver), Dayna Hoffmann (Surrey), Emma Davis (Delta), Kobe Doi (Surrey), Dani Break (Surrey), Dahlia Kerr (Victoria/Chilliwack), Alex van Geyn (Coquitlam), Emily Thorne (Delta), and Christian Krushel (Coquitlam).



Poster for 'The Diviners'



- ✓ This year in animated films
  - ✓ What to play when you're sick of 'Jingle Bells'
  - ✓ Thick as thieves
- And more!

# 2017: A year in music

› Bests, worsts, and everything in between



Joshua Toevs  
Columnist

Here is a list of lists and superlatives for the year that was 2017.

## Music's Best New Act: Cardi B

This is really just an excuse to praise the rise and cultural impact of Cardi B. In less than a year, the stripper-turned-reality-star-turned-rapper has shaken the musical landscape to its core. With the release of her hazy trap banger, "Bodak Yellow," Cardi reached heights that female rappers haven't hit in years. The song oozes confidence and glistens sonically. The song is constantly played at parties and the club but even more importantly it found charting success, halting Taylor Swift from a lengthy stay at the top of the Billboard Charts as Cardi found herself sitting at number one for seven weeks. Cardi at number one marked the first time a female rapper had a solo number one record since Lauryn Hill's "Killing Me Softly," and she has translated that to greater successes. While we have yet to see an album from her, she has released a number of great features and the sky is the limit for the young rapper.

## Most Interesting Story of 2017:

Kim Kardashian has receipts  
In 2016, Kanye West released a song titled "Famous," a song in which he says he could

probably have Swift romantically because he made her famous. Kanye claimed that Swift gave her blessing for that line and everything seemed okay. A little while later, Swift refuted this claim and stated she would never give the okay for something like this. Usually everyone would just side with Swift, but unbeknownst to her, Kim Kardashian West had video evidence to refute her claims. Kanye recorded all of his conversations and on one faithful night, Kardashian went on Snapchat to play the recordings of Swift giving her approval. It was a big deal in that we rarely see holes in the Swift armour, and for one of the first times we were able to see Swift as less than perfect.

## Comeback Record of the Year:

Paramore's After Laughter  
After Laughter presented a new sound for the veteran rockers of Paramore. Gone is the edgy and abrasive pop punk production and in its place are silkier guitar strings, softer drum compositions, and electronic overtones. It is a welcome new sound as the music is fun and easy to listen to. "Hard Times" is an up-tempo bop, "Told You So" is a groovy electro-rock mishmash in all the right ways, and "Tell Me How" is a crushing ballad. There are so many different styles and sounds that blend so well together without ever feeling too uniform. If this is a sign of things to come for Paramore, then I am personally excited.

We take a break from the superlatives for some lists!

## Interesting Hip Hop Albums

1. Big Fish Theory by Vince Staples
2. Saturation I by Brockhampton
3. Saturation II by Brockhampton
4. Still Striving by A\$AP Ferg
5. More Life by Drake

## Five Albums You've Probably Never Heard Of

1. Brick Body Kids Still Daydream by Open Mike Eagle (hip-hop)
2. Rina EP by Rina Sawayama (pop)
3. Semper Femina by Laura Marling (singer-songwriter)
4. Now That the Light is Fading by Maggie Rogers (singer-songwriter)
5. Ash by Ibeyi (art-pop)

## Five Albums So Boring, They Might Help You Sleep

1. Everybody by Logic
2. Relaxer by alt-J
3. Hopeless Fountain Kingdom by Halsey
4. Trip by Jhene Aiko
5. Reputation by Taylor Swift

Most Disappointing Album of 2017:  
Haim's Something to Tell You

The California trio released Days Are Gone in 2014, which featured beautiful melodies, rocking chords, and great rock songs that were reminiscent of bands of yesteryear like Fleetwood Mac. In 2017, Haim returned with an album that was anything but. This album is lyrically flat, sonically boring, and features changes to the sound that just don't make sense. They incorporated electronic samples try and bring their sound into 2017 but it sounds manufactured and shallow. Where Days Are Gone was a love letter to the '70s without sounding dated, Something to Tell You is a bargain bin reject.

## Favourite Album of the Year: Run the Jewels' Run the Jewels 3

The hip hop duo El-P and Killer Mike does it again with their third album as a duo. The production is denser and in your face, mixing newer, fresher sounds with the timeless boom bap beats. The lyrical content is more politically charged given the landscape while also keeping with their bully attitude. Songs like "Legend Has It," "Talk To Me," and "Hey Kids" are hard-nosed and aggressive, while "A Report to the Shareholders" is a dark, sombre look at the world during the Trump era. Run the Jewels takes more risks and are more introspective on this record than previous efforts, and as a result it is my favorite album of 2017.

# 'You're a classic... Mr. Grinch'

› The 60th anniversary of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!'

Clive Ramroop  
Columnist

"Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot..." Can you say the next line? Yep, that's what I thought.

By now, virtually everyone should know this story and its distinct imagery from the mind of Dr. Seuss—the overloaded sleigh on Mount Crumpit, Max the dog with an antler tied to his head, Cindy Lou Who, and, of course, that familiar guy in green whose heart was two sizes too small. This enduringly popular children's book by Seuss is now 60 years old, having spawned adaptations into an animated Christmas TV special, a live-action Jim Carrey film in 2000, and a CGI film coming next year with Benedict Cumberbatch voicing the title character. However, the story of the Grinch goes further than that.

Seuss' first use of his Grinch character was in a 32-line poem titled "The Hoobub

and The Grinch," originally published in the May 1955 issue of Redbook magazine, predating his Christmas story by two years. Unlike the more familiar malevolent Christmas hater, this early version of the Grinch is a con artist who meets an everyman-esque Hoobub relaxing in the sun, and swindles him into buying an otherwise useless piece of green string. In archetypal used-car-salesman fashion, he aggrandizes the scant "virtues" of the string and exaggerates the natural dangers of excess solar exposure en-route to a successful sale—a parable-like critique on marketers aggressively (and deceptively) pushing items on the public that they don't need.

Seuss began writing How the Grinch Stole Christmas! in early 1957, with his wife Helen Palmer Geisel as an uncredited editor despite suffering a mild stroke, among other health problems. According to the 2004 biography The Seuss, the Whole Seuss, and Nothing But the Seuss, the Grinch story

was "the easiest book of his career to write, except for its conclusion." Seuss wrote most of the story in only a few weeks, but toiled over the ending for three months, trying to explain the Grinch's change of heart—or increase in three sizes—without feeling like a "second-rate preacher or some Biblical truism." Desperate to finish the book, Seuss gave up on bothering to make a statement and simply had the Grinch return the stolen loot to the Whos without any karmic consequences whatsoever, and as a result become the guest of honor to carve the roast beast for their Christmas banquet. The completed story was first published in Redbook magazine that fall, and released as a stand-alone book by Random House in time for the Christmas season.

## Other Grinch trivia:

-The inspiration behind the story came from a grimacing reflection in the mirror while Seuss was brushing his teeth the morning after Christmas

1956. Compounded by his own dislike of the commercialization of the holiday, he wrote the book "to see if [he] could rediscover something about Christmas that obviously [he'd] lost," he said in a 1957 Redbook article.

-The Grinch was Seuss' first main character in his books to be an adult, as well as a villain.

-Some observers including Seuss himself have pointed out common links between the Grinch and Seuss' real-life self, one of which being the two having the same age. He was 53 years old when he wrote the book; in the story, the Grinch complains that he'd suffered through the Whos' celebrations for 53 years.

-Seuss' car had a license plate that read "GRINCH."

-Aside from the animated adaptation of the book, the Grinch also appeared in two other TV specials: Halloween Is Grinch Night (1977) and The Grinch Grinches the Cat in the Hat (1982).

# ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi

## › Coming packed with new species

Veronica MacKillop  
Contributor

Star Wars: The Last Jedi is coming to theatres December 15, and the new episode is bringing some new species to the Star Wars universe.

The trailer that dropped on October 9 gave us a look at some of these species, but many fans agree that one creature stole the spotlight: Porgs. The newly-beloved creature was seen screaming beside Chewbacca in the Millennium Falcon, and they immediately became a fan favourite. So, what do we know about the Porgs? According to the Star Wars Wookieepedia, Porgs are a seabird from Ahch-To, the planet where Rey found Luke Skywalker at the end of The Force Awakens. The Porgs are curious creatures who can fly and build nests. Baby Porgs are called Porglets, and a group of Porgs is called a murder. The Porgs are created using animatronics, puppetry, and CGI.

Director Rian Johnson explained that the Porgs are actually inspired by

puffins, after he saw them covering Skellig Michael Island while scouting the space for the film. He found the creatures hilarious and thought we needed a Star Wars version of this.

Some fans have noticed a shot of Chewbacca with a feather in his mouth, and are speculating that it may be a Porg feather. This seems unlikely since there will also be a children's book called Chewie and the Porgs, but perhaps Chewie attempting to eat a Porg doesn't actually result in the Porg being eaten, and this will be played off as a joke.

The next new species we see in the trailer is the Crystalline Fox called the vulptex. They live on Crait, a mineral planet where members of the Resistance are hiding out.

The creatures have developed the crystalline nature due to feeding off the planet for so long, claims creature effects creator Neal Scanlan. He also said that the inspiration from the creatures came from glass chandeliers, and they put a suit made of plastic straws on a dog to figure out how the crystalline fur would move.

According to Entertainment Weekly, the vulptices can burrow into crevices to hide.

In the trailer, the vulptices are seen running into some sort of shelter, which fans assume is the Resistance hideout on Crait. Since it seems they are running away from something, many assume that the foxes are going to be helping the Resistance. Perhaps, because they are so climatized to Crait, they are being used by the Resistance to gather food and supplies, or to be on lookout.

Caretakers are the final new species seen in the trailer. Johnson described them to Entertainment Weekly as “these sort of fish-bird type aliens who live on the island [of Ahch-To].” He explained that they have lived there for thousands of years, and they tend to the structures on the island.

The Caretakers are all female, large, but with small bird-like feet, they speak in an alien language that Johnson describes as “a blubbery sort of Scottish fish talk”, and they wear nun-like clothing. Johnson said that he wanted them to seem like a little nunnery. Luke is able to understand them, but Johnson said that the Caretakers sort

of just tolerate his presence on Ahch-To. He also said that they are amphibious creatures who rose up from the sea to take care of the buildings. Scanlan said that the Caretakers are an “extrapolation from the Porgs.”

The Caretakers are animatronics, played by people inside the suits. Since one of the buildings that they care for is the first Jedi temple, fans speculate that the Caretakers most likely worship the Force.

Star Wars News Net found photos of another creature that may be in the upcoming film, but rather than releasing the photos, they had artist Eli Hyder come up with concept art for another new creature that may be on Ahch-To: The sea monster. We know that the monster will be white and up to nine feet tall, and that there is a possibility that Rey will go up against it in the film, but it may just be in the background.

From Ewoks to Porgs, Star Wars is always bringing interesting new creatures for fans to love, and with the December 15 date fast approaching, we'll soon see how these new species will fit into the universe.

# Racism and poverty: A muddy situation

## › ‘Mudbound’ film review

Ida Salmany  
Contributor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Another modern period drama that has earned high reviews at Sundance has hit the screens, and it is well worth the two hours!

Based on Hillary Jordan's novel of the same name, *Mudbound* is a compelling and absorbing film, with a stunning cast and a realistic depiction of racism, sexism, and poverty in the 1940s.

This film is here to make you feel uncomfortable. Full of suffering, the movie follows the lives of five characters in rural Mississippi during and after World War II. Dee Rees, the director, gives each character

their own narrative voiceover, which makes the viewers see what they see and challenges the assumptions that viewers may have of race and gender.

From the very beginning, the film sets the stage for tension, as Laura McAllan (Carey Mulligan) describes the challenges she faces being married off to an insensitive and stubborn husband, Henry McAllan (Jason Clarke), and how moving to a large, desolate piece of muddy land has altered her life. Next, we are introduced to the Jacksons, an African-American family that is leasing parts of the McAllan's farm and trying their best to live a good, happy life. Hap (Rob Morgan) and Florence (Mary J. Blige) have a constant struggle with money and dealing with Henry as their inconsiderate landlord, and on top of everything

else, the Jacksons worry about their son Ronsel, who has gone to war.

This leads us to the two characters in the film presented as the leads: Two soldiers, Ronsel Jackson (Jason Mitchell) and Jamie McAllan (Garrett Hedlund), who is Henry's younger brother living with Henry's family on the mud-ridden farm. Both are haunted by different things. Ronsel, who is a hero at war defending his country, comes home to Mississippi to see that even as a hero, he has to sit at the back of the bus and exit stores through the back door. He strikes up a friendship with Jamie, who is haunted by his experience at war, relying on his drinks to suppress his memories. Though they see the colour in each other, they find comfort in the wounds of one another. During their first encounter, they both plunge back into the horrors of war

when a car backfires, leading them to bond because of their nightmares.

The performances in the film are incredible, with Mulligan raising her children in terrible conditions; Mary J. Blige, wonderfully stoic and powerful as Ronsel's mother; Jason Mitchell, proud and defiant as Ronsel; and the under-appreciated Garrett Hedlund as Jamie. Cinematographer Rachel Morrison does a fantastic job capturing the beauty of colours in this film and having captivating scenery.

*Mudbound* has a marvelous cast and is tremendously acted out, especially Mitchell and Hedlund, who are able to make their unlikely friendship feel so real and meaningful, making the audience feel their pain, happiness, and sadness.

# What makes funk music funky?

## › The art of skipping a beat

Katie Czenczek  
Staff Writer

Out of all of the various genres that erupted out of the 1960s African-American music scene, funk music is the genre to most likely to get you up and dancing. A blend of R&B, soul, and jazz, this genre spiked in popularity during the '70s when groups like Sly and The Family Stone, James Brown, and Funkadelic were at large. Later, as electronic beats became more popular in the '80s, artists such as Michael Jackson, Prince, and Kool and the Gang all fell into their genre with their danceable and memorable hits.

In the 21st century, and this year in particular, there has been a revival of funk music. Acts such as Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars and the combined efforts of Childish Gambino and Ludwig Göransson have brought funk music to a contemporary audience. Tracks such

as the rightfully-titled “Uptown Funk” and Gambino's “Redbone” both have characteristics of funk music, and sound almost like odes to the songs that came before them. Both Mars and Gambino and Göransson are up for nominations this year at the 2017 Grammy Awards, and there's a good reason for it: You can't stop the funk.

However, defining what funk exactly is can prove to be quite the challenge.

The blend of R&B, soul and jazz often makes it easy to categorize funk songs as one of those three genres, but such classification then fails to fully describe the very special and eclectic mashup of genres that defines funk. As far as music theory goes, one of the defining features of funk music is the use of the syncopated beat.

Syncopated beat is a term that describes the intentional “disturbance or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm,” as described by Wikipedia. In order words,

syncopated beats veer away from the standard four-count beat, or “one, two, three, four,” and move onto a “one-and-two-and-three-and-four” beat, thus causing disturbances in the rhythm of everyday pop songs. The reason that pop songs are so easily stuck in your head is the opposite reason for why funk beats make you want to get up and dance. The disturbances in the flow of rhythm allows for empty gaps to fill in the space of the song, which triggers an impulse in your brain to anticipate the next beat. As you anticipate the beat, your body fills in the gaps by dancing.

Blair Fisher, the Music Technology Coordinator at Douglas, said in an interview with the Other Press that what separates funk from rock and blues is the happy medium between simplicity and complicatedness.

“Bass and drums provide the foundation, and in my opinion, funk tends

to be more complicated and interesting (both rhythmically and harmonically) than rock or blues. The other rhythm instruments will often play sparsely—filling the gaps left by bass and drums,” Fisher said.

When done right, the way that funk artists have been doing since the '60s, the beat is almost unstoppable. There needs to be a balance between staying on beat and adding syncopation to the song, similar to when writers break traditional writing structure and format their work in a meaningful way. In both instances, it takes a nuanced and advanced grasp of the structure of music and writing in order to pull it off.

However, it also helps to have some horns, singing chops, and background singers to fully fill out the song, said Fisher.

“Add in some horns, a great singer, some background vocals, and you have the basic ingredients.”



# Five albums to gently weep your rainy Vancouver nights away to

> From bedroom pop to break-up rock, we've got you covered

Jacey Gibb  
Distribution Manger

**I**t has begun. The time of year where 98 per cent of the forecasts call for rain, and the other two per cent predict “partly cloudy, with a chance of showers.”

It's a commonly-known fact that your will to leave your house plummets dramatically during the winter months, which means a surplus of cozy nights spent indoors. Here are five suggested soundtracks to help drown out the torrential downpour happening outside your window.

**Turn Out the Lights by Julien Baker**  
When Baker self-released a hodgepodge of tracks back in 2014, I doubt anyone was expecting things to blow up quite like they did. In a world saturated with stadium-rock anthems and cookie-cutter club tracks, Baker's minimalist sound and reverberating vocals are here to save us from, well, ourselves. My friends and I have an ongoing joke about how Baker is the perfect music to bring down any fun, upbeat situation—so her latest album is quintessential listening for your limitless rainy nights.

**Hospice by The Antlers**  
Is it an autobiographical album about a nurse and a hospice patient, or is it simply a well-crafted, eerie concept album? While The Antlers' frontman Peter Silberman continues to dodge the question, we can instead focus on what listeners *do* know: That Silberman et al.'s third album is as achingly beautiful as it is haunting. Chronicling



a (possibly fictional?) relationship from its formative days to the patient's inevitable medical decline, *Hospice* is as much a love story as it is a eulogy. In other words, get ready to crank those speakers and dab your leaky eye sockets.

**Everybody Works by Jay Som**  
Som's music is frequently referred to as “bedroom pop,” so what better album to play while you contemplate never leaving your bedroom again. Dreamy and mellow, but with enough rock to keep you from nodding off, *Everybody Works* has it all. You might argue that this is a multi-purpose album that pairs well with both indoor and outdoor activities—but for optimal usage, play

inside, in the background, as you're buried under three layers of bedding.

**The First Days of Spring by Noah and The Whale**  
Towards the end of their career, Noah and The Whale deviated *hard* into upbeat, mostly-forgettable pop music; back in the earlier days, though (i.e. 2009), we were gifted with *The First Days of Spring*, the rare sophomore album that surpasses a band's debut in almost every conceivable way. Lyrically, the album centres around the breakup between frontman Charlie Fink and former bandmate Laura Marling, but hints of optimism occasionally flicker through the album's overarching sombre tone. Despite its seasonal

name, *The First Days of Spring* fits in perfectly with Vancouver's autumn.

**Too Bright by Perfume Genius**  
For years I considered myself a mere dabbler in Perfume Genius, until a fateful show back in 2015, where he opened for Belle & Sebastian at the Vogue Theatre. Unaccompanied on stage, Mike Hadreas a.k.a. Perfume Genius commanded more attention by his lonesome than the combined 10-or-so members of the night's headlining act. Throw on his third (and arguably, best) album and sink back into the dizzying vocals and power piano ballads—or better yet, learn to play these tracks on the piano, and then you can shout-harmonize yourself!

## Chairman of the Board: Yee-haw!

> ‘Colt Express’ board game review

Ed Appleby  
Senior Columnist

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**T**here is something exciting about the Old West. Even though most of what we think we know comes from the likes of John Ford and Sergio Leone—filmmakers, not historians—we have created a wild and fantastic world that rivals Tolkien. Who wouldn't like to spend a little time in the world of sagebrush and six-guns?

Colt Express (2014) is a thematic planned-action game for two to six players designed by Christophe Raimbault and published by Asmodee. In the game, players are bandits on board the Union Pacific Express out of Folsom, New Mexico. Players utilize cards in their hands in order to plan the actions they wish to take, but both the environment and other players can interfere with those plans, making everything go awry. The play occurs on a constructed board of train cars with a cabin and a roof that the bandits can utilize, as well as special

skills that each character possesses.

Like many programming games there is a lot of psychology and strategy involved, as you attempt to predict how your opponents will move and act. However, unlike other planned-action games, you see some of what the other players are planning, and the injuries you sustain add useless cards to your hand, which adds elements of deck building to the mix.

If I have one criticism of Colt Express, it is that it falls heavily into the stereotypes associated with the Old West genre. This is glaringly evident with Cheyenne, the native woman who has the special skill of “pickpocketing.” She also has a bit of a Tiger Lily look and plays a little too far into the “exotic savage” type. This isn't too bad with the other character designs, with all other body types and races represented—even Belle, the “pretty one,” isn't overly sexualized. Points for diversity, with one exception.

I loved this game. I found it fun and fast-paced, with rules that were complex enough to keep things interesting and weren't so complicated as to bog down



play. The strategies for gameplay are diverse and no game runs the same. All player types can find this game enjoying,

especially families and groups of casual players. I would definitely recommend that you track this one down.



Promotional image for 'My Entire Highschool is Sinking into the Sea'



# This year in animated films

> A review of some of 2017's animated offerings

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

2017 has been an amazing year for animated films. There were films that had great stories, beautiful imagery, and brilliant soundtracks. However, there were also films that were not great and did not wow as much as they were promoted to. Some of the animated films this year only came out in limited release, so a lot of people may not have seen them yet.

The year began with not a lot of movies in this genre being released. In February we had *The Lego Batman Movie*, which is funny and looks interesting, although I couldn't watch it because I haven't seen *The Lego Movie* yet. Also, *Ballerina* was released, and it has a Canadian connection because the producers worked with a ballet

company in Quebec to make the ballet scenes in the film. Go see it because Mission's Carly Rae Jepsen is in it.

The following month, *The Boss Baby* was released with Alec Baldwin saying a lot of vulgar things as Boss Baby, and it appealed to adults despite being a children's film. Then, more animated films started to be released with *Smurfs: The Lost Village* in April, which did not have anyone from the first two films in *The Smurfs* film series.

After that, the highest grossing film in Japan, your name., came to North America in a limited release. The opening titles of the film look like the opening titles of a TV show. It has beautiful images and the time-lapse scenes are like the opening titles of *House of Cards*. The editing in the film has aspects that I haven't seen before in an anime film, so director Makoto Shinkai would be part of what I would describe as the Anime

New Wave. The film's soundtrack made by RADWIMPS is in English and has the essence of Japanese rock music.

Another limited release film, *My Entire High School Sinking Into the Sea*, is an indie film as well as an animated film.

In June, there was *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie*, which stays true to the book series that inspired it: It shows that the arts are important, and it has the comedy of Dav Pilkey. Next, there were two third installments in series. *Cars 3* was good, but it did not wow me as much because it focuses on Cruz Ramirez, which causes the film to talk about feminism and makes Lightning McQueen and the other male race cars sexist. The other third film is *Despicable Me 3*, which is very funny and has a lot of 1980s jokes in it.

The next few months had a lot of bad animated films including *The Emoji Movie*, *The Nut Job 2: Nutty by*

Nature, *The Lego Ninjago Movie*, and *The Star*. There was also *My Little Pony: The Movie* if you are into that series.

Recently, we saw the release of *Coco*, which is musically entertaining, explores Mexican culture, and has a spectacular image of the Land of the Dead. Before the film is shown, they show the Frozen short film *Olaf's Frozen Adventure*, which is pretty much *Frozen 2* in 20 minutes, and the song in the end of it will probably be the holiday hit of this year.

There are still two notable animated films to be released this year: *The Breadwinner*, which is based on the bestselling book, and *Ferdinand*.

Some of the animated films this year are brilliant, and with the Academy Awards race about to begin, the three films that could be nominated for Best Animated Feature next year are your name., *Coco*, and *The Breadwinner*.

# The best non-traditional Christmas songs

> What to play when you're sick of 'Jingle Bells'

Duncan Fingarson  
Senior Columnist

Christmas songs are a holiday staple. Love 'em or hate 'em, we've pretty much all heard them. They play at the mall, on the radio, and on CDs at family gatherings. There is a wealth of songs, however, that get basically no air time at the holidays despite being about the holidays. Here are five of my personal favourites, from a variety of sources. Without further ado, and in no particular order, I present:

**"Christmas at Ground Zero," by Weird Al**  
Originally released back in the '80s, this song has nothing to do with the more recent "ground zero" attributed to the

World Trade Center attack. Instead it's about imminent nuclear war, which was a much more pressing concern at the time. The song is a bouncy, cheery track about setting up for Christmas while being simultaneously nuked.

**"Fishmen," by the H.P. Lovecraft Historical Society**  
This song isn't technically about Christmas, but it is set to the tune of "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," and that's good enough in my books. Released as part of a series of Lovecraft-themed Christmas song parodies, "Fishmen" is my favourite of the lot, although some of the others are pretty good as well. Put a little cosmic horror in your Christmas.

**"Fairytale of New York," by the Pogues**  
This one gets quite a lot of play in New York, or so I'm told, but I've never heard it here. It's got a bit of a folk feel too it, and features some unconventional lyrics. It's not supposed to be offensive to anyone, but fair warning: The lyrics in question involve Irish slang for a lazy person. That aside, the juxtaposition of mixed styles and the fact that the song is a duet make it an interesting, and good, choice.

**"Christmas Time in Hell," by Trey Parker**  
This song, coming to us courtesy of *South Park*, probably IS intended to be offensive, but it's *South Park*, so nobody should be surprised by that. The song follows Satan and the damned as they prepare for the season down in Hell, and is both incredibly

funny and incredibly catchy.

**"Carol of the Bells," by various artists**  
Who loves metal? This guy. "Carol of the Bells" lends itself astoundingly well to symphonic heavy metal, with a few traditional instruments thrown in for good measure. Orion's Reign, Little V, and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra have all done versions of this Christmas classic, and all of them are good. Pick your favourite and rock out.

**Honourable mention:** The honourable mention goes to Bob and Doug McKenzie of the "Great White North," for their uniquely Canadian take on "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Unfortunately, this one didn't quite make the list, because there is no way to make "The Twelve Days of Christmas" not be annoying as hell.

# Thick as thieves

> A review of the 'Gentleman Bastard' series

Bridget Ivery  
Contributor

I have recently finished reading the first three books of Scott Lynch's *Gentleman Bastard* series, and I thoroughly enjoyed them. Unfortunately, the fourth book doesn't come out until October 2018, so I have to satisfy myself with getting all of you hooked on them, too.

The first book in the series, *The Lies of Locke Lamora*, takes place in the fictional city of Camorr, a fantastical version of Renaissance Venice where gangs of thieves rule the streets and noblemen and women live in high glass towers built by the ancient and mysterious Eldren. The novel follows two storylines, one telling the early development of the titular thief

Locke Lamora as he's introduced to the life of a *Gentleman Bastard*, while the second follows Locke and his friends, now young adults, as the city's underground faces peril from the ruthless Grey King. The story picks up speed as Locke races to outwit the Grey King and the Camorri nobility in an effort to save his friends and the city he calls home, and still come out on top as he tries to pull off a con at the same time.

*Red Seas Under Red Skies* is the second book in the series. Taking place two years after the end of the first book, Locke and his best friend Jean are looking to make the biggest heist of their careers. Their target: The Sinspire of Tal Verrar, an Elderglass tower full of gambling and luxury with a reportedly unbreakable vault. The thieves' past catches up with them, though, and complications send them out to sea. Part

heist movie, part pirate adventure, this one is a tonne of fun. Like the first book, it skips back and forth from the past to the present, showing how they prepare for the heist but never quite revealing the plan. The ending is another mad dash, as all the plot elements come crashing together, and it keeps you guessing right to the finish.

The third book of the *Gentleman Bastard* is *The Republic of Thieves*. It picks up almost immediately after *Red Seas Under Red Skies*, and it follows Locke and Jean as they enter the world of politics in Karthain, the city of the infamous Bondsmagi. Feared for once having destroyed an empire, the Bondsmagi have hired Locke and Jean to fix an election. Much to their surprise, their rival in this contest is another *Gentleman Bastard*, or I should say Lady: Sabetha, Locke's childhood

love, is introduced in this novel. In similar style to the first two books, the storylines of the present election and the characters' pasts together run parallel, each coming to a crescendo at about the same time.

*The Republic of Thieves*, which I originally thought was the end of the trilogy, left me craving more. Locke and Jean, and perhaps Sabetha, will appear in the next novel, *The Thorn of Emberlain*. War has broken out in the northern kingdoms, and the *Gentlemen Bastards* hope to run a con but are soon pulled into the fighting—and poor Locke was never very good with a sword!

From the first chapter of *The Lies of Locke Lamora* I was hooked on these books, and I hope you will find them as page-turningly wonderful as I have.



# SPORTS

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✓ Rampin' Royals  
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## Post-Grey Cup musings

> Canadian football culture versus American college football culture

Jillian McMullen  
Staff Writer

According to the CFL website, the audience for the Grey Cup championship game between the Toronto Argonauts and the Calgary Stampeders peaked during the fourth quarter to 6 million simultaneous viewers. In light of this, I was speaking with some classmates and coworkers about my plan to cover the game for this very article, but, upon mentioning the Grey Cup, I was more often than not met with questions of what exactly that was, rather than with enthusiasm. However, had I mentioned the Stanley Cup, I think it's fair to assume everyone would know what I was talking about. This got me thinking about why the Canadian Football League might not be part of our national consciousness despite the league's television success. Yes, you could chalk this particular instance up to personal disinterest in the game. However, I think there might be something in the US's influence on football that prevents it from having the same cultural significance as something like hockey.

In his book *Violence in Southern Sport and Culture*, Eric Bain-Selbo shows that in 2015, Southeastern Conference (SEC) schools had an average of 80,000 fans in attendance per game. To put this in perspective, TD Place Stadium (where the Grey Cup was held) only sat about 36,000 people for the national championship. Bain-Selbo also quotes Michael Oriard, a former Associate Dean at Oregon State, who claimed that "what college football

offered fans that professional and high school football could not was a local team competing in the national arena." College football fans are attracted to particular teams because their players reflect the regions they play for, and subsequently represent that region on a prestigious, national scale. This helps to establish the college football team as a source of regional pride for their fans.

I don't think I've ever met a Canadian football fan who had the same amount of ferocious devotion to a team as what you see in leagues like the SEC. So why doesn't a similar kind of identity-building translate to the Canadian football scene? Perhaps it's because it lacks the same regional referents as with American football. If you look at the Argonauts' active roster, only about 35 per cent of the players are from Canadian universities, with the Stampeders around the same figure. There has always been cross-border athlete drafting amongst sports. Just under half the players of last year's Stanley Cup winner, the Pittsburgh Penguins, are Canadian-born. However, it is interesting that one might be able to question the "Canadianness" of what one could consider an innately Canadian league. It is difficult to organize that kind of societal devotion to the sport when the region receiving the prestige for superior athleticism is located anywhere other than the society itself.

Despite the pervasive Hockey-loving Canadian trope, the Grey Cup's large audience is testament to our more basic motivations for watching sports: Ultimately, it's just about the enjoyment of the game.



Photo by Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press

## Conor McGregor and the Irish mob

> MMA champ has fights and friends with a drug cartel

Greg Waldock  
Staff Writer

Apparently, MMA champion Conor McGregor is not content to pick fights with just boxing champions. He has reportedly directed his attention towards the Irish drug cartels. More specifically, according to multiple news outlets, McGregor allegedly had an incident on November 27 in a Dublin pub where he punched a 50-year-old man repeatedly in the face. The man is allegedly connected to the Kinahan drug cartel, a large and wealthy gang with connections across the Irish underworld. According to the DailyMail, no charges were filed, and the Kinahan gang may be investigating to "intervene before it escalates."

It has been an aggressive month for McGregor. On November 10, he leapt into the ring during a Bellator match in Dublin after one fighter had been knocked out. He shoved the referee, prevented the downed fighter from getting up, and slapped a commissioner in the face, causing the fight to end early. This does not come as a surprise, given

McGregor's off-ring reputation, but no charges were filed here, either.

Even less surprising than an overaggressive MMA champion is the involvement of a mob in martial arts. The Kinahan gang is reported to have been active in many sporting competitions across the Republic of Ireland, and since 2015 have been a part of a large on-going gang war with other families. Among those notable killed in the past two years have been Paul Kavanagh, a brother of a major Irish boxer and son of a rival to the Kinahan cartel, and David Byrne, a gangster with strong ties to the Kinahan cartel and a close friend of McGregor's. McGregor attended both of their funerals.

Given their connections, it appears unlikely that the Kinahan family plan to start a feud with McGregor over the incident, and Dublin police have apparently insisted that no investigation is underway due to a lack of charges filed. McGregor's alleged connections to this large cartel has had little visible impact on his MMA career, though his behaviour at the Bellator match has caused the company to drop him from future games until further notice.

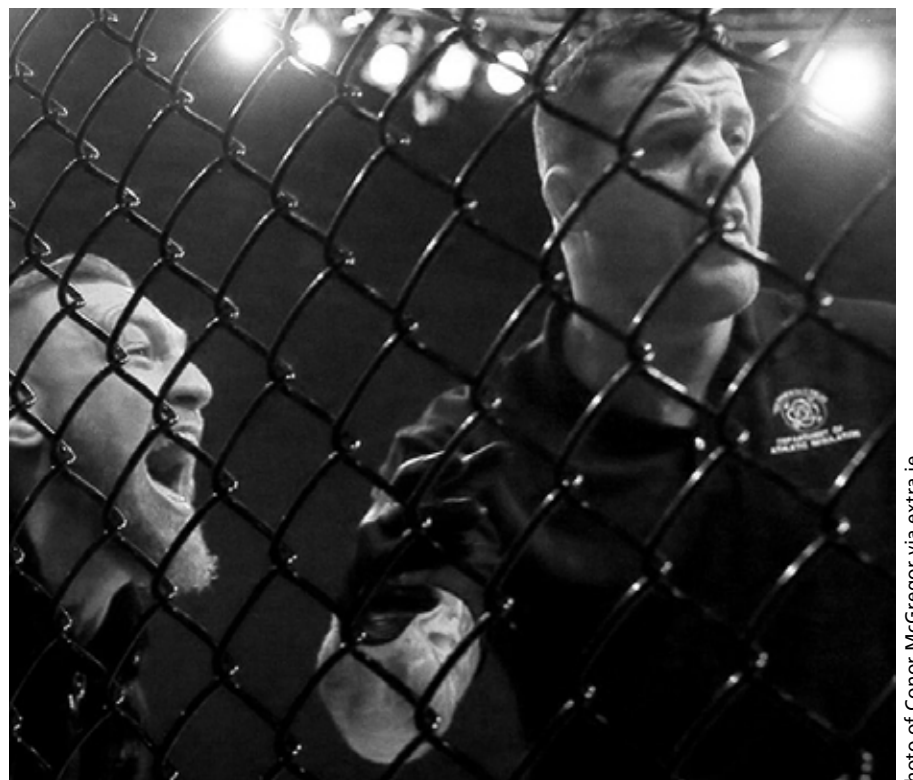


Photo of Conor McGregor via extra.ie



# Who wants to spend the holidays in traction?

› The winter sports least likely to injure you

Ed Appleby  
Senior Columnist

What is it with winter sports? Does something strange happen in the human brain when it snows—similar to the entire population of the Lower Mainland forgetting how to drive—that makes us think that strapping wood to our feet and hurtling down a hill is fun? Or strapping knives to our feet and swinging sticks at each other? Shockingly, some of us are averse to injuring ourselves for fun, so maybe—just maybe—there is some sort of seasonal sport for those of us who wish to make it to March without concussions and broken bones.

## Curling

The great Canadian pastime that is not hockey. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the sport, it involves sliding a big rock down a sheet of ice in order to get it closest to a target, like lawn bowling on ice with sweeping. And unlike other ice sports, the surface isn't kept mirror smooth, but is instead roughed a little to add traction to the rock. The sliding apparatus is limited to one foot and you also have a broom to balance yourself. It is no wonder that like other low-risk sports—like bowling and baseball—beer leagues are common.

However, there are still risks to curling. Though there is little chance for acute or life-threatening trauma with regards to curling, Lea Bree of the Capilano Rehab Centre points out that curling does pose a risk of lower back strain, elbow pain, knee strain, and pelvic torsion, especial at the competitive level.

# Sport: Forever

› A humble writer's goodbye

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

As you can tell from the title, this isn't going to be a cheery piece. In fact, it's my last article as the Sports Editor for the Other Press. For two and a half years, I've had the privilege of calling this paper my primary occupation. But all things come to an end, and as my time at the Other Press closes, I want to reflect on the importance of sports, to myself, and likely so many others out there.

Growing up, I moved around a lot, so the only real constant in my life was my family—and sports. Whether it was soccer, hockey, or basketball, I knew that I always had sport, and that was comforting. As my life grew more stable, sports shifted from being a constant, to an outlet. I used sports to meet people, make friends, and when I started playing rugby, to hit people. Gruesome,

I know.

Teenage depression hit me like a truck, so I used sports to get through it. Although high school sucked, I knew if I just got through the day, I could go play sports and be good at something. Sport was always there for me when I needed it to be, but don't be fooled! Sport is a cruel mistress.

Towards the end of high school, I tore my rotator cuff in training. It was a devastating injury which I never fully recovered from. As I found myself on the outside looking in, and even cut from my high school team, I thought my life with sport was done. I resigned myself to only watching

such things as knee pain, rotator cuff and tendon damage, and lower back pain. Acute injuries can include ankle sprains, thumb dislocations and the ever-popular groin sprain.

## Snowshoeing

All of the fun outdoor exercise of cross-country skiing without the risk of running into a tree. Snowshoeing has gone from a necessity for fur trappers on the Canadian Shield to a sport that is basically jogging in clown shoes. Modern snowshoes are small, light and designed to both grip as well as keep you above the snow. If you are an avid hiker in the warmer months this might be the sport

for you.

Like hiking, though, there is a great risk of getting lost or injured in the backcountry. North Shore Search and Rescue advise sticking to the snowshoe trails and keeping a charged cellphone handy in case something goes wrong. Many snowshoers overestimate their skill and underestimate the weather and terrain—the results can be deadly.

## Ice fishing

Cut a hole in the ice and throw out a line. Ice fishing can be a great activity for those who aren't looking to overexert themselves. The culture and social nature around the activity is prevalent and there are many festivals and competitions, as well as many viable lakes throughout the interior of British Columbia that allows such activities. Just remember to get a fishing licence.

Oh, and check the thickness of the ice. Thiels et al noted in their 2016 study of American ice fishing injuries that "Ice fishing is associated with more severe injury patterns and more thermal injuries and immersion injuries than traditional fishing." It is recommended that you also know the area and not set up near inlets or running water.

So if you do decide to go out and enjoy yourself this winter, play smart and stay safe. As for me, I will be engaging in some professional level wine mulling, and that's about it.

pursued new ways to write about sports. I was lucky enough to have the support of Douglas College, who gave me opportunities to be a part of something so much bigger than myself.

Through the ups and the downs, sport has always been there, and always will be. It's give and take, a fight all the way, but it's so rewarding. No matter if you're an athlete, a coach, a writer, or even an outsider looking in, sport will always be there. As I move forward with my life, I know that sport will always be with me.

Thank you to all of the readers. No matter how much we at the Other Press joke about no one reading us, we know you're out there. Thank you to everyone who has ever mentored, taught, or coached. It's you that passes the torch that allows sport to shine. Thank you to my colleagues, who have always pushed me to better myself. And thank you to sport, for always being there. Sport, forever.

“It's been a long two years since, and I've never felt more connected to sports that I do now, despite not having played a pickup game in years”

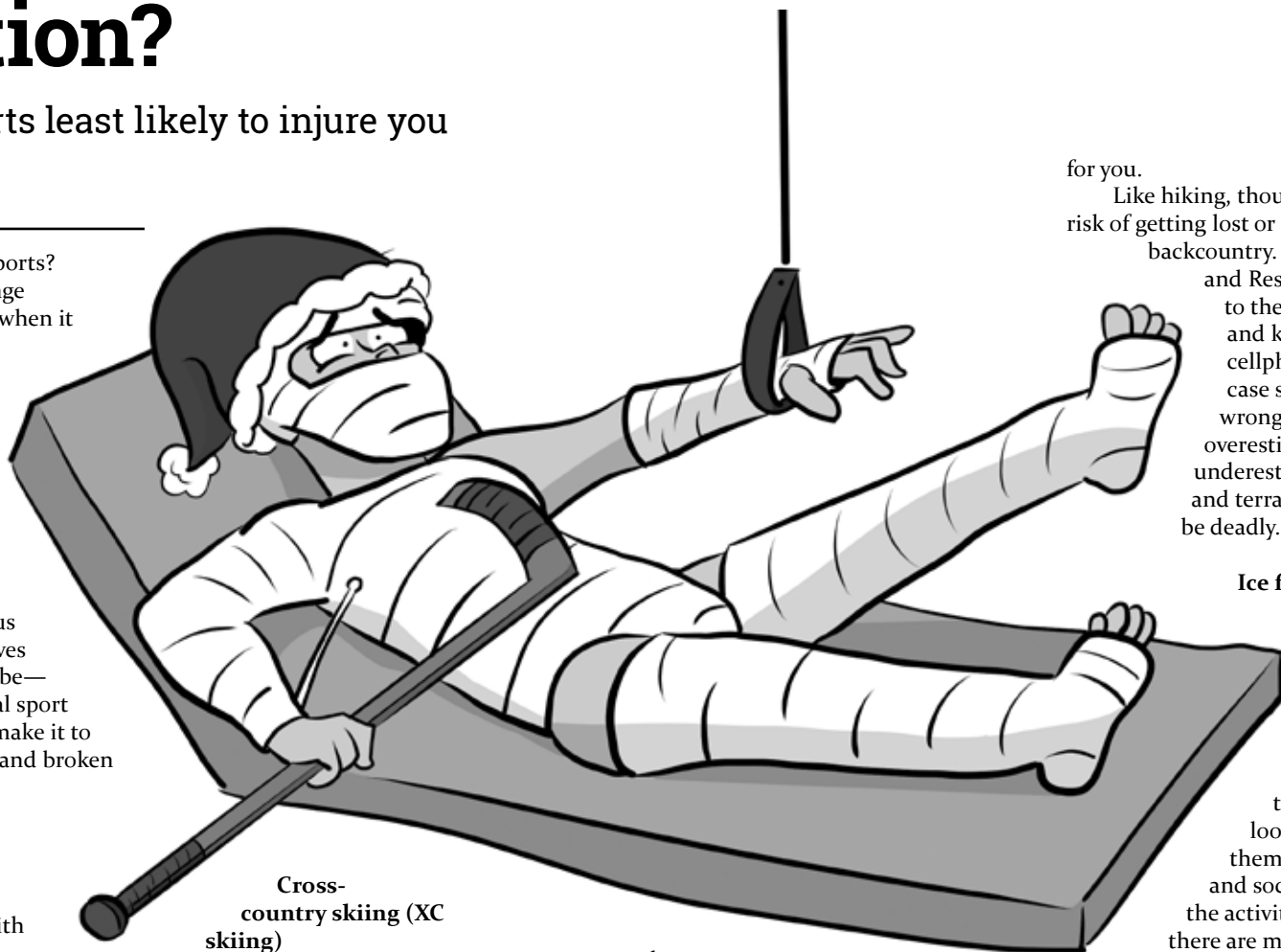


Illustration by Ed Appleby



# 2017's Greatest Hits

By Carlos Bilan



## Not Even Happiness by Julie Byrne

Patiently passionate and calm, the folk songbird's Not Even Happiness is the perfect album to listen to when you just need time to be immersed in soft tunes and some silence to drown out the stresses of the world. In the peaceful "Follow My Voice," Byrne comforts listeners who might be feeling worried and serves as a perfect intro to a meditative listening experience. In the majestic standout track "Natural Blue," Byrne relates an important experience meeting someone with the colour of the sky and in this way, Byrne can remind listeners of the power of nature's beauty—even if simple—can calm one's soul.

## Process by Sampha

Sampha has been well-known for his amazing collaborations with many big artists in the R&B and Hip-Hop industry like Drake, Kanye West, Frank Ocean, Solange, and others. Process is a solid debut that successfully showcases his beautiful voice, artistic vulnerability, and expertise as a producer. The album starts with the potent "Plastic 100°C" and it samples Neil Armstrong's lines from when he first steps on the moon, which acts as a metaphor for Sampha venturing into an uncertain future. The album seems to be a narrative on how the gentle soul processes grief, death of loved ones, anxiety, and loneliness. Despite these themes, the album is not entirely a downer due to tracks like the urgent "Blood on Me" and upbeat "Kora Sings." Nevertheless, in quiet and sincere moments like "(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano" and "Timmy's Prayer," Sampha's soulfulness shines.

## I See You by The xx

It has been almost five years since the English band's last album and I See You proves itself to be worth the wait and a refreshing take on dream pop and indie electronic genres. In fact, I See You is perhaps the album that contains most of their upbeat work. The opening track "Dangerous" opens with trumpets and has a chorus you can dance to, which signals a departure from the softer aesthetic of their previous albums. "On Hold" is another example of a vocal sample being used within a chorus to great effect. With I See You, the band manages to still evoke their trademark dreamy style without falling into the trap of "sameness," as these subtle changes make a big difference to their overall sound.

## Take Me Apart by Kelela

"Don't say you're in love until you learn to take me apart," the enchanting Kelela commands in the title track. Certainly, this would be the case since this album requires repeated listening in order to fully digest and appreciate every layer of each track's production. However, the album offers some catchy accessible bops like "LMK" which could have the potential to be a hit if it wasn't for its experimental wonky production. Listening to the album is like being invited into Kelela's bedroom where we get to indulge in the sensual atmosphere and witness the artist's vision. Lyrically, the album can be considered an artistic attempt at expressing empowered sexuality and sincerity. Truthfully, Take Me Apart feels like a spacey futuristic R&B.

## Utopia by Björk

The Icelandic songstress' tenth album is an engaging sensory experience, transporting the listeners to an auditory Shangri-La where we might hear birds chirping, angels having picnics, nature spirits playing in the forest, and other ethereal images you can imagine as you listen through the pieces. In the airy and reflective "Blissing Me," Björk sings about lovers falling in love through swapping music—in fact, the idea of "falling in love" is a recurring theme in this album. Björk said in an interview with Pitchfork that this new release is her "Tinder record." Considering that Björk's previous effort, the depressingly dark but absolutely clever Vulnicura, had a dystopian feeling due to its central theme of heartbreak, Utopia is a polar opposite with its optimism. The positive vibe could easily symbolise Björk rediscovering happiness and reaching a hopeful conclusion in the end.



2017 has been blessed musically by outstanding newcomers as well as highly-anticipated musical comebacks. Without further ado, let's have a look at the Top 10 Albums of 2017.

### **Masseduction by St. Vincent**

While the pop-tinged Masseduction might be Anne Clark's most accessible album as St. Vincent, it still offers a lot of adventure and contains dark themes reminiscent of her last albums, despite its bright-neon album cover. As Clark said in an interview with i-D, she describes the album as a "dominatrix at the mental institution." In the title track, Clark repeats robotically the portmanteau, "masseduction" then says, "I can't turn off what turns me on" in a sexual tone, which conveys this overall concept of seduction in multiple facets. While the album ventures across the pop field, it still has a lot of rock elements which recalls her previous albums. Except this time, there's a colourful twist. However, the album has some mellow moments like the piano-accompanied "New York" where Clark sings softly about losing a hero and friends but would "do it all again" for the lover she misses.

### **Run the Jewels 3 (RTJ 3) by Run the Jewels**

"Legend Has It" that the excellent hip-hop duo who are as musically compatible as PB & J "dropped a classic" with this album—yes, pun intended. While RTJ 3's cover depicts the iconic RTJ hand sign made of gold with a blue background which might represent royalty, elitism, and prestige, ironically, the album's themes are anti-elite; or rather, an artistic revolution against ruthless capitalism. In the album highlight "Panther like a Panther (Miracle Mix)" with Trina, they talk about taking all the money from the wealthy and redistributing it to those in need in society as they tell everybody to "throw the pistol and fist" which refers to the RTJ hand sign. In "Thieves! (Screamed the Ghost)", they drop a harder truth-bomb by rapping about police brutality and systematic racism, ending the song with a sample from a speech made by Martin Luther King, stating that "a riot is the language of the unheard."

### **CTRL by Sza**

As indicated in the title itself, SZA takes control of her life as a woman addressing themes that may be considered dirty and taboo. The Kendrick Lamar-assisted smooth track, "Doves in the Wind," celebrates the power of vaginas. The gorgeous opening "Supermodel" has SZA singing about her insecurities and taking revenge against an ex-boyfriend who wronged her by sleeping with his friend. Another example is the standout "The Weekend," which recounts the experience of three women sharing one man. Many have interpreted from this track that SZA is the "side chick" but as SZA confirmed on Twitter, there's no side chick because all the women described in the song are aware of the polyamorous nature of the arrangement. Despite SZA throwing out all the dirty laundry for everyone to see, the album has a lot of heart and soul, such as the deep cut "Normal Girl" where SZA becomes wishes that "she was a normal girl" or the type of person you can settle with and be proud of.

### **Melodrama by Lorde**

Melodrama is perhaps one of the biggest surprises this year. Because the album was marketed as pop rather than indie, many speculated she must have sold out; however, when the full album dropped, Lorde gave us high-quality pop that is completely out of the norm. The artist in her late teen years managed to accurately convey the feelings of happiness in love through tracks such as "The Louvre," the pain of getting your heart ripped out with the quiet and cathartic "Hard Feelings/Loveless," and the sadness of looking back at a love that could have been great but crumbled away with the ironically energetic "Supercut," finishing with the anthem-like "Perfect Places." Lorde mentioned in an interview with Teen Vogue that she has synaesthesia, which is her ability to "see specific colours when certain music notes are played," and this perhaps contributed to Lorde's ability to perfectly convey the idea of melodrama with this brilliant album.

### **DAMN. by Kendrick Lamar**

While DAMN. is Lamar's shortest studio album in length and his most "commercial" sounding, it's still packed with a lot of heat and brilliant storytelling for its seamless track transitions, poetic lyrics, politics, and symbolisms. For example, Lamar used a snippet of a Fox News reporter who criticises hip-hop at the end of the first track, "BLOOD," then proceeds to the fiery "DNA" where he gives a nod to his black heritage. Moreover, the album seems to have religious undertones which can be conveyed through the album's track titles and order like the rather tranquil "PRIDE" preceding the bombastic "HUMBLE," which juxtapose one another in both music and lyrics. The Rihanna-assisted track "LOYALTY" talks about the importance of loyalty in relationships and friendships; so, in a way, Lamar is able to convey his own ideals in this album. Finally, the album seems to be Lamar's most personal to date; for example, in the revelatory "DUCK-WORTH," Lamar talks about a twist of fate in his life that occurred because of his father's kindness. After the universally-lauded To Pimp a Butterfly, expectations for Lamar became even higher; however, the Compton-raised hip-hop paragon surpasses expectations with this damn marvellous album.

### **Honourable mentions**

Lust for Life by Lana Del Rey  
Something to Tell You by HAIM  
Arca by Arca  
No Shape by Perfume Genius  
Crack-Up by Fleet Foxes  
After Laughter by Paramore  
Rainbow by Kesha  
Number 1 Angel by Charli XCX  
More Life by Drake  
This Old Dog by Mac DeMarco



# Rampin' Royals

> Royals women's basketball building towards repeat

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

It has been an absolutely tight-knit start to the PACWEST season. With four teams vying for the first place spot headed into the winter break, it has been one of the closest starts to a season that I've ever seen. For the Royals, it's been par for the course so far. Sitting in that dog-pile for first with a record of 4-2, the Royals have looked good for a team early in the season.

Their highlight came with a huge 68-37 win over the Langara Falcons to start the year. To be fair, the Falcons now sit at the bottom of the table with a record of 1-5, but at the start of the season, it was fair game. Their low-light was the 69-52 loss they suffered at the hands of the VIU Mariners. A surprise for many as the Mariners weren't the best team last year, but have seemed to found a good vein of form of late. However, their game would have to have been their

last. A gold medal rematch against the Capilano Blues went the way of the Royals rather comfortably, 71-53 to be exact.

When called upon, the women's team has shown themselves more than capable of returning to fine fighting form. One major difference changes the dynamic of the team from last year; the return of former first-team All-Star Nanaya Miki has completely shifted the Royals, for better or worse.

Offensively, Miki's 12 points per game have helped the Royals a tonne, yet it comes in place of Sarah Jorgenson's lack of offensive presence this year. Likely because Miki has really stepped into her role as an all-around forward, Jorgenson has instead been a key defensive leader for the Royals. Her 7.5 rebounds per game has her fourth best in the PACWEST, and her 1.5 blocks per game is second best. Speaking of rebounding, that is again something the Royals do very well thanks to head coach Steve Beauchamp's focus on

it. Nanaya Miki leads the team in rebounds with 8.3 per game, which is second best in the PACWEST. Rachel Beauchamp has 7.2 rebound per game, sixth best in the PACWEST. Beauchamp also has 12.7 points per game, seventh best in the PACWEST.

What the Royals are really missing this year is a playmaker. Naturally, with Adelia Paul finishing her PACWEST playing career last year, the transition to a new shot caller has taken time. Nanaya Miki has filled the role well, tossing up three assists per game (fourth best in the PACWEST). However, other than Miki, it's a tossup for the Royals. Remarkably, in a six way tie for 10th most assists per game are four Royals. Jessica Castillo, Karen Li, Amber Beasley, and Ellen Fallis each average two assist per game. Now this could mean that the Royals are finding their playmakers from around the court. But Beasley and Li have some of the higher turnover ratios in the PACWEST, scoring 3.5 and 3.0 turnovers per game, respectively.

Perhaps finding a go-to playmaker is something the team will be working on during the winter break. Or maybe it's working for head coach Steve Beauchamp, and that sort of transition passing is what he wants. Either way, the team will have to clean it up if they want to repeat. Interestingly enough, Rachel Beauchamp and Nanaya Miki have the first and second best shooting percentages in the league. Perhaps the answer isn't defence, but just to get the ball up more often than the other team?

I'm not the head coach, so I can't answer that one. But I can say, while not perfect, the Royals looked strong. If they find a playmaker, the Royals have the potential to repeat. If they can't? Well, that means the team will play a very interesting style that will be fun to watch for.



## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
DOUGLAS	10-2	20
VIU	10-2	20
UFV	7-5	14
CAPILANO	6-6	12
CBC	5-7	10
COTR	4-8	8
CAMOSUN	0-12	0

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
VIU	10-2	20
CAPILANO	10-2	20
UFV	6-6	12
DOUGLAS	5-7	10
CAMOSUN	5-7	10
COTR	4-8	8
CBC	2-10	4

# In it to win it

> Royals men's basketball poised to go the distance

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

After some massive offseason overhauls, the Royals men's basketball team have made quite the name for themselves. Ranked seventh nationally by the CCAA, the Royals have gone from a fringe team to one of the best in the west. While it is still early to be praising the team, it's hard not

to love the style of basketball that the Royals are playing.

Tied for second in the PACWEST with a record of 4-2 headed into the winter break, the Royals have really established themselves a powerhouse team. In particular, a defensive powerhouse. Coach Joe Enevoldson has his team playing a defence-first kind of game with a power transition offence that sees his team succeed on both sides of the court.

So far, the team's biggest game has been against CBC, where they won 84-62. However, as a bottom team, it's not the team's most impressive win. That would be their 97-89 win over the Langara Falcons in their home opener. Their hardest loss came to the VIU Mariners, 89-77. As the Mariners are the go-to team to beat, it stung that the Royals weren't able to do so. However, it was a humbling loss that the team can learn from.

Overall, the Royals have a fantastic all-around team on the court. Offensively, the Royals are up there with some of the best in the league. Grant Campbell's 17.3 points per game has him ranked fourth in that category. Noah DeRappard-Yuswack has 16.2 points per game, sixth best in the PACWEST. American international Kameron Johnson has 15.8 points per game which is 8th best in the PACWEST. The Royals are the only team to have three players in the top 10 of points per game. Though the offensive mantle still belongs to Usama Zaid of the VIU Mariners, the Royals do other things just a little better.

The arrival of Kameron Johnson has seen Grant Campbell step into the role of a scorer rather than a playmaker.

Johnson makes the play, Campbell finishes. At the moment, Johnson averages 4.5 assists per game, third best in the PACWEST. But where the Royals have really found their success this year is off the glass. Noah DeRappard-Yuswack averages 12.5 rebounds per game, the PACWEST's highest. That means that he averages a double-double every game. Reese Morris has also been a defensive monster for the Royals. Averaging 9.6 rebounds per game (third best in the PACWEST), and 1.8 blocks per game (PACWEST best), Morris is a keystone in the Royals defensive game. With Kameron Johnson averaging 6.8 rebounds per game, and Grant Campbell averaging 6.2, the Royals are the only team with nearly their entire starting lineup in the top 15 rebounders. That says a lot about the style of basketball the Royals play.

Looking at the numbers, the Royals have the best all-around team in the PACWEST. It's just about transitioning that to beat VIU. Look for the men to put work in over the break to come back even harder. With this lineup, it's hard to imagine anyone but the Royals in the finals against VIU right now. Knock on wood.



Photo via Douglas College Flickr



# LIFE & STYLE

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  - ✓ Magic: The Gathering community chooses to believe the victims
  - ✓ Don't stress over finals
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## Holiday stress got you down?

› How to make the most of your time

Katie Czenczek  
Staff Writer

Winter break is supposed to be a joyous—or at the very least, relaxing—period between semesters. In theory, it should be a time to let your brain recover from all of the stress it endured throughout the fall semester. However, stresses from gift shopping, having to see family members that seem to enjoy commenting on everything you're doing wrong in your life, and making the most out of your winter break before getting back into classes can almost make you crave the sweet release of the lecture hall.

It might do you, and your loved ones, some good if you just pull a Ferris Bueller and take a day or two off—and if you don't understand that reference, I suggest incorporating some feel-good '80s comedies into your winter holiday.

Once your expectations for how exactly your time during winter should go have been wiped from your mind, you may just actually meet them.

Now, of course my advice to you

is to not blow off everyone and crawl into your quilt cave in order to watch Netflix all break. Your retinas do not need to have that bold, red-lettered logo burned into them. All I'm suggesting is that you give yourself some ample time to take a break and unwind a little. If you aren't feeling up for the seventh staff party your coworkers are hosting, don't go. If your family and significant other's family keep inviting you out to Christmas celebrations that you aren't really up for, just be honest and say no.

Granted, this is easier written than done, but sometimes just setting up boundaries with your friends and loved ones is exactly how to get the calming break you need.

Another tip I have for how to reduce stress is similar to my advice for when travelling abroad: Do not spend your entire time in a shopping mall. I enjoy shopping for gifts but I know that I made a mistake by having to run back to the mall multiple times because I forgot to buy my secret Santa a gift, changed my mind about the gift I bought my friend, or decided that my niece and nephew need

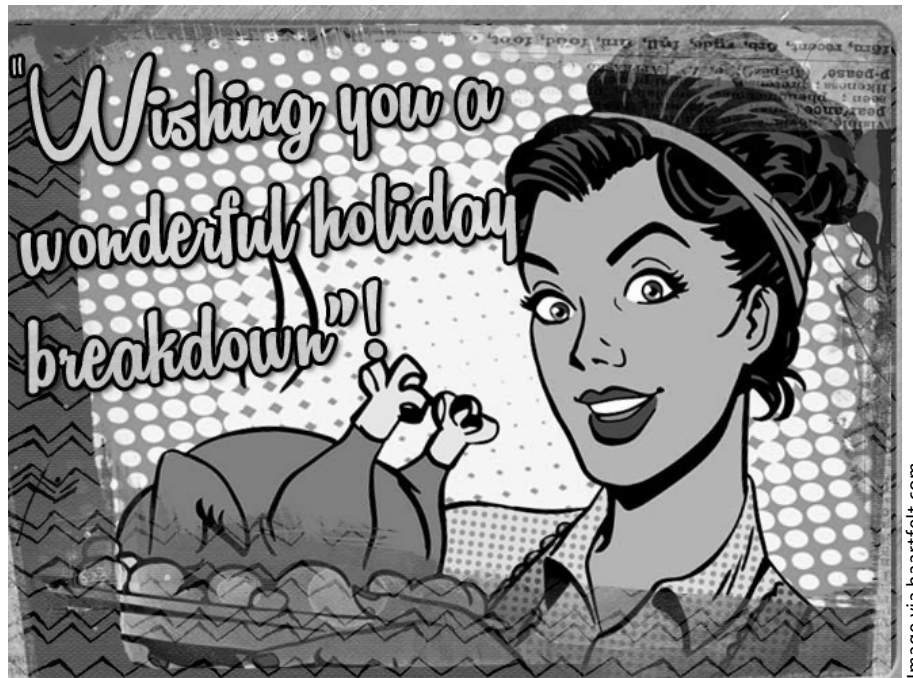


Image via haartfelt.com

to be spoiled even more with yet another present. Write a list down of the gifts you need to get and where to find them, and stick to it. It will save you a lot of time.

Hope these tips help those who are secretly dreading the holiday season. Best of luck and hope you make it to the next year.

## The morning-after pill

› What to expect when you don't want to be expecting

Brittney MacDonald  
Life & Style Editor

The morning-after pill is an emergency contraceptive available at most pharmacies and drugstores. Though you do not need a prescription, in some retailers you do need to speak to a pharmacist before they will sell it to you. Variants include Option 2, Plan B, Backup Plan, as well as a few other generic brands. In general, they all tend to do the same thing, and they all have the same side effects. Despite the fact that the morning-after pill has been around since the early '70s, many people are still vastly uninformed when it comes to what the pill actually does, and what they can expect after taking it.

First and foremost, the morning after pill is not the abortion pill. This confusion has led many people to reject the pill unnecessarily. The morning-after pill is meant to prevent pregnancy by inducing an early menstrual cycle, and voiding the uterus to prevent an egg from attaching itself to the uterine wall. It must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex—though they do cite that taking it within 12 hours is ideal. The abortion pill, known clinically as Mifegymiso, is meant to be a non-surgical alternative to an abortion, and can be taken within the first nine weeks after it has been determined that a pregnancy has occurred. It is a known fact by many researchers, including those at the Office of Population Sciences at Princeton

University, that it is physically impossible for the morning-after pill to terminate an existing pregnancy. The easiest way for the average consumer to tell the difference is that Mifegymiso requires a prescription, and will run you about \$300-\$400, while the morning-after pill is available over-the-counter and costs \$30-\$40.

Before taking the morning-after pill you should know that it is not recommended that you rely on it as a consistent birth control method. It does affect your hormone levels as well as your overall body chemistry, which, in general, is not something you want to mess with. The side effects can also be a bit debilitating, and tend to worsen the more often you take it. The morning-after pill is meant to be a last resort in case of an accident with the condom/diaphragm or a heat-of-the-moment situation.

If you do find yourself in need of the morning-after pill, be sure to clear your schedule. Call in sick, cancel plans, go somewhere quiet—because you will not want to be doing much afterwards. Though severity of side effects tends to fluctuate depending on the individual, you can expect to feel like you would on the worst day of your period. Nausea and cramps are the most common side effects, as well as fatigue and fever. Thankfully these symptoms are quick to pass and should be gone within a day or two. Stock up on the chocolate and Midol, and you should be fine. Don't get freaked out if you have spotting for the next few days. This is very common, and just means

that the pill did its job. The amount of spotting will be determined by where you were in your fertility cycle before taking the pill. Those closer to their menses will have spotting more similar to a full-blown period, while those further from their ovulation date will have spotting that will be minor by comparison.

Perhaps my biggest personal gripe in regards to the morning-after pill is the lack of education surrounding it.

Because it is still considered a bit taboo, due mostly in part with its confusion with Mifegymiso, it is not something that you learn about in all those sexual education courses you had to sit through in high school. Most people I have talked to weren't even aware that the morning-after pill had side effects. It is up to you to educate yourself, and know your options—as well as what to expect when you don't want to be expecting!

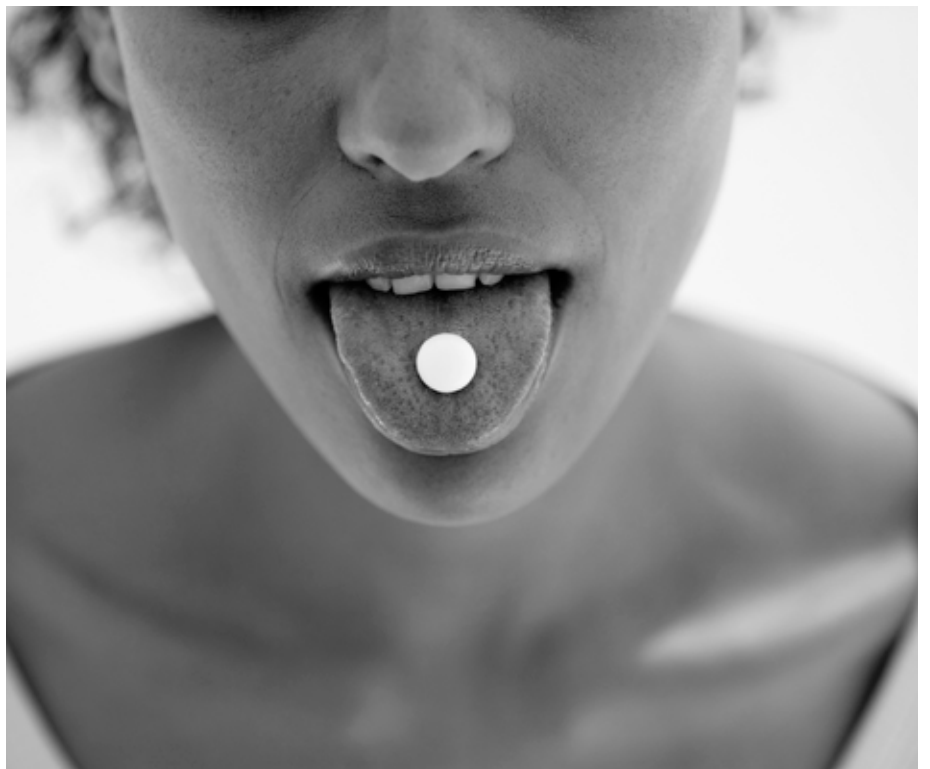






Photo of Christine Sprankle cosplaying as Elspeth

# Magic: The Gathering community chooses to believe the victims

› MtG rocked by harassment accusations from cosplayer Christine Sprankle against well-known YouTube personality

Lauren Kelly  
Graphics Manager

On November 24, Christine Sprankle, one of the most well-known cosplayers in the Magic: The Gathering (MtG) community, announced on Twitter that she would be no longer cosplaying due to harassment. Specifically, she called out one YouTube personality: Jeremy Hambly, known on YouTube as MTGHeadQuarters (no longer active), UnsleevedMedia, and TheQuartering.

Hambly is well known in the community, and is one of the most popular MtG Youtubers, currently sitting at over 144,000 subscribers on UnsleevedMedia and 25,000 on TheQuartering. He rose in popularity by doing booster pack-opening videos on his main channel, but uses his side channel The Quartering to upload more controversial content. A self-described critic of MtG products as well as content put forth by other MtG personalities, Hambly has upset many members of the community over the years. Much of his content has been critical of what Hambly believes is Wizards of the Coast (WotC), the creators of MtG, pandering to women and the LGBTQ+ community. These arguments were most recently addressed by him in the videos “The Women ‘Problem’ in Magic The Gathering” and “I Am Pissed! WOTC, Identity Politics in Gaming & Man Hating Enough is Enough.” While he

has also created multiple videos critical of Wedge from The Mana Source, Brian “the Professor” Lewis from Tolarian Community College, and other content creators, it was the accusations by Sprankle this past weekend that was the final straw for much of the community.

Since Sprankle’s tweets, discussion exploded in the MtG community on Reddit and YouTube, and WotC themselves made two statements. The MtG subreddit, /r/magicTCG, saw posts discussing Sprankle’s exit reach Reddit’s main page, and Reddit’s MtG community was largely supportive of Sprankle. The explosion of coverage led WotC to make a statement discussing their sadness over the recent “bullying and harassment”: “No one should be subjected to threats and intimidation. No one should be made to feel unsafe or unwelcome while enjoying something they love [...] We’re listening to your feedback and working to ensure everyone who plays Magic feels welcomed and accepted.”

On YouTube, Lewis uploaded a 20-minute video that showed support for Sprankle and discussed his own struggles with receiving prolonged harassment and attacks by Hambly and his followers. “My phone suddenly rings, as you all know how scary that is. I say, ‘Oh, death threat! I guess Jeremy made another video or series of tweets about me.’”

In this video, Lewis displayed video clips and tweets by Hambly speaking negatively about Sprankle and about

female cosplayers in general, with comments calling out Sprankle for begging for Patreon supporters: “If she wasn’t a good-looking girl, the support would be about five per cent of what it is. [...] If she wasn’t crying, same thing holds true.” He also made many demeaning comments on Twitter about female cosplayers such as: “If you’re trading \$\$ for it it’s just porn,” “Cosplay is dumb. Playing dress up is not ‘work,’” and “When I start looking at some of this cosplay [...] I feel a little movement down in my pantaloons, and I’m like ‘I see why people could like cosplay.’” He also discussed the other forms of toxicity that Hambly has brought to the community.

Jimmy Wong, from the channels The Command Zone, Feast of Fiction, and formerly an actor on the cult-hit webseries, Video Game High School, responded to the allegations with multiple tweets from his handle @jfwong, stating “Beyond crushed to hear that constant abuse, harassment, & toxicity has driven away one of Magic’s most talented & dedicated members,” and “I’ve spent many useless hours trying to bring this man to reason, to see if there’s any semblance of dignity or honesty in his veins. I’ve given him the chance to own up to prior mistakes, but instead he’s hid, lied, obfuscated, & deleted old posts to save his image. Disgraceful.” These tweets led him to be a target for harassment as well, but he has stood by his words.

Hambly asserts that the videos and

tweets critical of him by Lewis and Wong, among others, have led to harassment and threatening messages being sent to him. He also stated that these videos provide no proof that he committed targeted harassment of Sprankle, nor proof that any harassment on his part led his fans to harass her. In his video on the UnsleevedMedia channel “This Is What Real ‘Harassment’ Looks Like,” he requested that, if these content creators are critical of harassment, it would be appropriate for them to remove their videos and tweets and make an apology to him. He specifically requests a sincere apology from Sprankle herself, who he refers to as “a well-known grifter and cosplayer,” as he claims it was her who started what he describes as a “witch hunt” against him.

As the television, movie, and music industries continue their purge of known harassers, the strong and supportive reaction to Sprankle’s accusations, as well as to the subsequent ones of others who claim Hambly has harassed them, is keeping with the trend of believing the victims. As WotC cannot take more action against Hambly as his content is housed on independently published media such as YouTube, Twitter, and Patreon, it is hard to know how this case will proceed. One thing is known—this has created a further divide in the community, with Hambly and his many supporters pushing back against WotC and the rest of the community.



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Image via badgerherald.com

# Don't stress over finals

## › How I became a confident exam taker

Jillian McMullen  
Staff Writer

My first year of post-secondary involved a lot of school-related anxiety. I, like most new students, was struggling to get my bearings in university. It felt as though everything high school had supposedly prepared me for was irrelevant to my new educational environment and its conventions—I had never even encountered a citation format until my first semester. While a visit to the library quickly helped me learn my MLA basics, it did not help me to deal with the stress of taking exams that were sometimes worth a third of my grade. I remember spending the first hour of my first major exam frozen in fear and the next furiously writing in an attempt to finish on time; I cried on my roommate's shoulder when I got home, terrified that I had jeopardized my grade-dependent funding. Five years into my now-ending undergrad, I've developed a way to approach similar breakdowns, so, in the spirit of the upcoming exam season, here's how I became a non-nervous test-taker.

First, you have to be willing to do the leg work. You're given an exam schedule at the beginning of the semester—set yourself up for success and give yourself enough time to do a good job studying. There's just no way to confidently take a test if you don't know the material—period.

Second, know how to effectively study. Different subjects each require a different sets of skills, so they all

require a different approach. Sociology, anthropology, biology and other subjects that similarly test memorization all benefit from flash card studying; math demands that students know how and when to use different operations, and English requires students to link course themes to each text covered, so anticipate possible essay questions and prepare outlines for them, or at least be aware of correlative themes. This last rule is what really contributed to my confident test-taking: I don't study material on the day of the exam. This will sound negative, but, by exam day, there's no amount of studying you can do to change the outcome of your exam—it's too late; you either know the material or you don't. Use the time you would have otherwise wasted trying to cram as much information into your brain as possible to, instead, focus on getting yourself in the right head space. If you go into an exam with a calm mind, you'll be able to focus on your work rather than the clock ticking away on the wall. I like to find a quiet place outside to focus on some controlled breathing (I find the cool air really clears my head). When it comes to setting your intentions, don't expect too much of yourself. Expect that you'll complete the test to the best of your ability, because that's all you can ever do.

Going from a nervous test-taker to a confident one only requires a change in perspective. You've put in the work, now prove it. Remember: Your degree will be a series of different tests, both academic and personal, and will ultimately not be determined by any one exam for any one course.

## the otherplaylist

**Brittney MacDonald**  
Life and Style Editor

As we roll our way into December, we have much to look forward to: bad weather, crowded malls, loud family get-togethers, and questionable vegetarian turkey substitutes. However, one thing we can count on to cheer us all up are the seasonal songs that are bound to be flooding the radio. Whether they be in celebration of this holiday season, or just winter in general, here's a list of our picks for favourite timely tunes. You can listen in on Spotify at <https://open.spotify.com/user/lullabyedespise/playlist/oe68zO6A2l7aZWPenproX7>

“My Favourite Things” by Kelly Clarkson (Mercedes)

“Stamp” by the Rural Alberta Advantage (Chandler)

"A Christmas Duel" by the Hives and Cyndi Lauper (Jacey)

Let it Snow by Sarah McLachlan (Jerrison)

"The Little Drummer Boy" by Christopher Lee (Caroline)

"I Wish It Could be Christmas Every Day" by Wizzard (Ed)

“Cool Yule” by Louis Armstrong and the Commanders (Brittney)



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priscillaomulo #holidayfun at the annual  
#douglascollege #aboriginal dinner!  
❤️ #happyholidays

This week's post is by @priscillaomulo



- ✓ Why you should care about Net Neutrality
  - ✓ Tim Hortons shouldn't be "quintessentially Canadian"
- And more!

## Why does Canada have Black Friday?

> Let America keep its terrible tradition to itself

Duncan Fingarson  
Senior Columnist

The day after American Thanksgiving, commonly referred to as Black Friday, is marketed as the busiest shopping day of the year. It's the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season, and the cause of more than a few injuries. Blackfridaydeathcount.com catalogues the various incidents going back to 2006, reporting 111 injuries and 10 deaths directly related to Black Friday. Recently, Canada has adopted the tradition of offering huge sales on this day as well.

My question is: Why? Why would we want to adopt a tradition responsible for traffic jams, trampling deaths, and gunfights over parking spaces? The obvious answer is money, of course. Retailers in Canada started offering Black Friday deals within the last few years, in an effort to keep Canadian shoppers on this side of the border. It's an understandable motivation.

The day, though, doesn't have any special significance for Canada. In the United States, it's the day after Thanksgiving. That's when the mall Santas come out in force, and everyone starts thinking about Christmas. If you want to do your shopping early (which you should) then going out on the day with all the

sales makes sense. In Canada, however, Thanksgiving is over and done with. We finished that back in October, and the holiday decorations came out of the bloody woodwork on November 1. Why not have the sales then?

Canada does not need to do everything the US does. I'd be perfectly happy not subscribing to the mindless consumerism that Black Friday represents. I certainly don't do my Christmas shopping at Walmart, no matter how good their sales are. Not everyone, though, is like me.

As much as I'd like to see Black Friday go away, it's probably not going to disappear any time soon. The lure of sales is a siren song too sweet for many to resist. I like saving money (we all do) but I don't think that the day of the biggest sales of the year needs to happen on a specific Friday determined by another country's holiday schedule. I would be distressed to see the sort of violence that happens on the day in America migrating north, though I don't think this is overly likely.

Still, I'd much rather stay home on Black Friday. I would be more encouraged to shop on the day if it didn't have stupidly huge crowds of bargain hunters thronging the stores in mindless hordes. I say, send the so-called biggest shopping day of the year back where it belongs: The hell from whence it came.



Photo by Analyn Cuarto

## Give the change you wish to see in the world

> Have a little compassion and just give people your change

Jillian McMullen  
Staff Writer

I think most people who grew up in the Lower Mainland remember being advised that it was more prudent to give homeless people food instead of money, because, the argument went, money would only ever go towards the purchase of drugs. My response to that is... so? If someone approaches you and asks you for the coins hiding at the bottom of your pocket, what's the big deal about handing it over?

I think that attitude is born out of ignorance and fear. People don't understand the underlying causes of homelessness and addiction, so they think that two dollars in a mixture of quarters and dimes somehow promotes drug use in our city. The reality is that there have always been drugs in Vancouver, and there will continue to be regardless of your contribution. The current War on Drugs in Canada and the US is proof of that. After years of attempting to eradicate illegal drug use through strict legislation and severe punishment, the only thing it has accomplished is to multiply the number of overdose deaths. This "war" has demonized the homeless and addicted individuals to the point where fellow citizens are taught

not to help one another. It has also perpetuated the belief that Vancouver has a "homelessness problem," which in my opinion is a pretty problematic way to address the actual issue. Vancouver has a homeless population, but it is not a "problem." Vancouver has a housing crisis of which homelessness is a symptom and to think otherwise comes from a position of superiority.

Yes, providing food to our homeless population is important. There is no reason for anyone to go hungry in a country as privileged as ours. At a certain point, people just need some money. Food isn't going to buy homeless women pads or tampons, and it isn't going to buy someone access to a community recreation centre where they can have a hot shower. People treat homeless people like they aren't their own autonomous human beings—like they can't, or even shouldn't make their own decisions—so advancing this "food only" mentality is just an example of you assuming A) you know anything about the person asking you for change, and B) you know what's best for them.

Ultimately, who cares if the two dollars in quarters and dimes you gave to someone ends up going towards drugs? Get off your high horse and have a little compassion for some of our city's most marginalized citizens.



Photo by Andy Griffin via Flickr



# Headphones rock

> Superior to earphones and earbuds in every sense

Caroline Ho  
Arts Editor

Audially, stylistically, and convenience-wise—headphones beat earphones or earbuds any day of the week.

I'm not going to get into the audio quality aspect here, because obviously there's a lot of differentiation between brands of headphones or earphones and the amount of money you're willing to spend. However, whether it's a \$400 Audio-Technica pair or \$20 Sony's, on-ear or over-ear, headphones are more versatile and effective in a lot of ways than anything you stick inside your ear.

First of all, headphones are less potentially damaging to your hearing. Earbuds and especially earphones deliver sound right into your ear canal, so when you listen to something at the same volume through headphone and earphones, the latter causes the sound to reach the delicate parts of your ears a lot more directly and damagingly. If you blast music at max volume you're going to cause damage no matter what equipment you're using (please don't, folks!), but you're probably more likely to turn the volume up if you're using a lower-quality pair of earphones with poor noise cancellation or isolation.

Storage and ease of carrying is

also a point in favour of headphones. They're obviously bulkier and harder to stuff hastily into your pocket—but that also means they're less likely to fall out of your pocket without you noticing. In addition, headphone wearers don't have to suffer the constant frustration of shedding earphone tips left and right, and being left with mismatching ones that don't fit properly.

Also, let's face it, if you're ever in a situation where you have to borrow someone else's earphones or earbuds, sticking someone else's earwax-covered tips in your ear canals is pretty gross.

But wait, you might be saying, if you don't have a good pocket or case to store your headphones, you're stuck wearing them when you're on the go! I'd call this another mark in their favour because headphones also serve as fashion accessories and ear-warmers. If you're the type to constantly have freezing ears in winter, even with a layer of toque or hood, headphones are great for keeping you both physically cozy and emotionally comforted with music. I've also had instances on supremely windy days where headphones have been the only thing preventing my hat from flying off.

The aesthetic of wearing headphones also leads to perhaps the best reason for their superiority: Headphones unequivocally convey a



Photo by Analyn Cuarto

more powerful statement of “Please don't talk to me.” For those times when you're not feeling particularly communicative and want to avoid having someone strike up a conversation with you, headphones give off the impression of drowning out the noises of the outside world more than earphones, regardless of how much you can actually overhear. You'd think that earphones or earbuds would get the message across clearly enough, but people can be oblivious to your desire to be left alone. With headphones, I find it a lot easier to

walk straight past that person trying to hand you a Scientology pamphlet at the SkyTrain station and pretend I don't see their mouth moving. An onlooker could conceivably fail to notice that you have earphones in; it's considerably harder to miss the headphones.

Lastly, there's the symbolism and pride that comes with being seen and known as a person with headphones. If you have earbuds in, to a casual passerby you're probably listening to some catchy songs; if you have headphones, you're listening to music.

# The death of the internet

> Why you should care about Net Neutrality

Ida Salmany  
Contributor

Net neutrality is the policy that all internet activity should be treated equally. Whether you're watching cat videos on YouTube, stalking your ex on Facebook, or buying something you absolutely do not need from Amazon (it's okay, we've all been there) with the net neutrality proposition passed, you will have to pay to use these services and know that companies such as Comcast and AT&T are favouring their content over their rival's content.

Recently, the current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman of Trump's office, Ajit Pai, issued a proposition to eliminate the present net neutrality policies. This means that broadband providers will be able to charge the web companies for a “fast lane” option, whereas smaller online video or video game providers could be pushed aside to the “slow lane.” The most prominent service providers such as Netflix, Google, and Amazon will have to pay more money, benefitting the Internet Service Provider (ISP), but resulting in a disadvantage for us as consumers.

The prices of our internet providers will increase, and companies such as AT&T and Comcast could give their own service priority on their network, reducing competitors and limiting what you can access. For example, Bing could pay Bell to increase their speed and then Bell

could charge you an extra fee to get faster Google services. This is terrible news for startup companies working hard on being the next Facebook or Netflix. Ultimately it can lead to your internet experience looking more like cable TV, where your provider will curate all the content.

Last week, Justin Trudeau was asked about his thoughts on the FCC's proposal and responded by saying that he will defend net neutrality, which is essential to small businesses and consumers. On December 14 the FCC is scheduled to vote on the proposition, and it has become certain to some that it will pass.

Internet access is and should always be a place for freedom of speech. It should be a platform where everyone can access freely and express equally. ISP's should not be able to discriminate against information or specific websites by blocking them and making them slower and harder to access, which will ultimately discourage us from using slower sites. While the internet might not be physically needed to survive, for most of us it has become an absolute necessity. We rely on the internet for work, for school, for communicating with friends and families, and it helps us organize our lives. Putting such a valuable tool into the hands of companies that only care about profiting is a terrible idea. If we don't let the free market decide the price we pay for water and electricity without any regulations, why should we give it the opportunity to determine the fate of the internet?



Photo of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai via The Hill



# Corporate capitalism creates crappy Christmas

> Why I dread the holiday season

Cazzy Lewchuk  
Columnist

It's well-known that retailers are quite busy during November and December. It is by far their busiest and most profitable time of year, and many long-term strategies rely on the winter windfall. Any sort of service business is incredibly busy during the holiday season, and it is the workers who suffer the most from it.

The holidays are universally dreaded amongst service workers. It's not just that they will be working more, the work that they're doing is significantly more stressful and busier. This time of year means a lot more stock, customers, hours, and pressure. Service work by nature is exhausting and stressful, it is even more tense and detrimental for these months. It is an extremely difficult and upsetting time for millions of people.

Retail workers receive almost no compensation or extra thanks for the hard work of the season. They may get a gift card and/or holiday party from the company... they will almost certainly not receive any extra pay. Retail wages are incredibly low, and most workers of that level do not receive benefits to begin with. It's frustrating when your work becomes even harder without any incentive. They also lose out on doing many holiday things because of work. They will be working as much as possible, and will

most likely have to work many days people in other industries have off.

It's not just the workers who suffer during the holiday season. The rampant consumerism gets all the shoppers, too. How much money is spent on decorations each year for seasonal merchandise that will be thrown out at the end of the month? How much extra do we spend on food and candy because of all the special holiday options? Perhaps most significantly, how much do we hand over for gifts every year, because we're expected to? The financial impact of the holidays affects almost everyone, and it's specifically due to how much the season is capitalized on. Consumers are targeted to spend as much as possible by corporations through strategies organized months in advance every year. They know the pressure to spend money is on, and they're here to get as much of it as possible.

Christmas and other winter holidays have a lot of significant meaning. For many, that meaning is spiritual, and it is universally regarded as a joyous celebration. What is meant to be a positive and wonderful time for many is turned into a season of dread and misery for so many people.

Worrying about a budget in December is not in the spirit of giving. Paying off Christmas debt months later is not a way to celebrate the holidays. The holidays are big business, and it's wrong that consumerism has completely dominated this time of year.



Photo by Analyn Cuarto

## Tim Hortons shouldn't be 'quintessentially Canadian'

> For such low-quality food, Timmies gets too much free marketing

Greg Waldock  
Staff Writer

When you stop and think about it, it's creepy how much Tim Hortons is associated with Canadian identity. It's a billion-dollar company that is well-known for crappy donuts and coffee. It's not even an entirely Canadian company, being part of a Frankenstein's Monster-like fusion of itself, Burger King, and Popeyes, all owned by a Brazilian investment firm since 2014. That fact that a company like this can tap into Canadian patriotism and exploit it for marketing is unsettling, especially when it's not even their advertising doing it. Ordinary Canadians and people abroad still see Timmies as being as Canadian as maple leaves, nationalized healthcare, and disgruntled Francophones.

I can see how Timmies got to be where it is in our national identity. It was founded by a hockey player, it supports hockey leagues and Scouts Canada, it existed only within our borders for most of its history, and there's always a restaurant somewhere nearby, no matter where you go. It's no surprise, then, that Tim Hortons is both popular and a Canadian stereotype—but it's still just another food corporation with low-quality products and strictly minimum-wage employees. It isn't the

kind of thing that needs or deserves the free marketing we give it, and it shouldn't get away with the creepily nationalistic campaigns it runs endlessly.

A lot of Canadians like to make fun of the US for its uber-patriotism. Reciting the pledge of allegiance in elementary school, putting stars and stripes on everything, being extremely touchy over depictions of the flag and national anthem abroad—it's all unnecessary to the point of being humorous. However, Tim Hortons can cover their coffee cups in maple leaves and make inspiring commercials about "what it means to be Canadian," usually with footage of people jumping into lakes at sunset, and almost nobody bats an eye. It's the exact kind of jingoism that America practices so unhealthily, and it's bad when we do it, too. If you want an example for why nationalism is bad even for little old Canada, just look at when the War of 1812 centennial celebrations were going on in 2012. The misinformation spread in that campaign (no, Canadians didn't burn down the White House or win the war) is going to stick around for ages. Us being quaint and relatively nice on the international stage doesn't mean we should believe our own hype.

This could all just be the disgruntled ramblings of someone who worked as a "baker" at Tim Hortons for a year—in



Photo by Analyn Cuarto

quotations because everything was frozen and microwaved. I just don't see how it could be healthy to hand over such a large chunk of our national identity to a corporation, which in the end will only ever care about the bottom line. A

culture is a huge thing to give control up to something like that. Ultimately, though, I think our standards just need to be higher. There are better things to celebrate in Canada than Timmies.



# HUMOUR

- ✓ Social epidemic solved
  - ✓ 40 per cent of research is done out of spite
  - ✓ Comics!
- And more!

## Inspirational story: My commute is still terrible

› My authentic Surrey experience with TransLink's new budget

Greg Waldock  
Staff Writer

We've all heard the rumours of TransLink's new budgets, buses, and schedules. I'll admit it: I was afraid. What would happen to the grungy old bus seats from the 1980s? How could I sleep at night knowing my train would not suddenly stop 37 times just outside of Scott Road station for endless maintenance? I didn't know what to expect. TransLink is entering a brave new world, and we're just coming along for the overcrowded ride.

But I have good news, dear reader: My bus was ten minutes late this morning. So was the bus after that. Three active buses and one Not in Service suddenly appeared like a comforting cup of morning coffee. Everything was the same as before, and it was all I ever wanted. The homeless man blocking the exit with a bag of smelly recycling, the two crying babies at the front, the jackass blaring loud music without headphones... mornings on the Surrey buses are still as magical as ever.

I'd heard the trains were going to run more often from King George Station, and that old trains would be replaced with new ones. This was terrifying to me. I'd never feel comfortable going over the Fraser River unless I could also step over a river of either old soda or old pee—hard to tell sometimes—on my way to my seat. The sleek new trains just don't have



Photo by Analyn Cuarto

that "we promise Surrey Central isn't still Whalley" charm. Well, this is the second bit of good news: It's just as gross as ever. That morning, I discovered the new SkyTrains already have comforting piles of old newspapers underneath the corner seats, maintenance at Scott Road every single night is set to continue for the next year, and people are still blocking the doors with huge bikes! What a relief.

Arriving at New Westminster

station, I carefully avoided the yelling people and Red Cross petitioners. This station held my greatest fear regarding the change; that the huge buses going vertical up the big hill would suddenly be safer, slower, and actually have functional breaks. I'm glad I was wrong, yet again. All the most dangerous buses were replaced with new double-deckers! When they hit the sharp corner down, they majestically tipped and rolled; all while

the pedestrian light was on, of course.

This was an emotional day for me, my friends. I was scared that my commute to school would suddenly be punctual and clean, that I could reliably make it home at night without wondering if the trains stopped early for cleaning. I even got myself thinking that the 502 from Surrey Central might actually show up at the station on time. Thank God I was wrong. TransLink is back and better than ever.

## Depression meals: Tis the season for fighting your family

› Reindeer sugar cookie recipe

Mercedes Deutscher  
Social Media Coordinator

### Ingredients:

One package of Pillsbury Shaped Reindeer Sugar Cookies  
Eggnog  
Rum

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Feel a wave of accomplishment come over you as you open the box of cookies and only eat two of them raw. Sure, you meant to make homemade cookies for your family's holiday gathering, but at least this isn't like last year where you made nothing.
- Place remaining cookies on a cookie sheet and place in oven. Set your timer for 10–12 minutes.
- Try to give yourself some festive cheer while the cookies bake. Pour eggnog and rum into your everyday mugs. They're Christmas mugs, but you use them all year because that was what was given to you when you moved out and you don't have the motivation to go buy new ones. Make sure your eggnog-to-rum ratio is at least one part eggnog to four parts rum. Chug that whole thing as fast as you can. Repeat.
- Prep the only large Tupperware container you have. Line the bottom with paper towel. Or don't. I don't care.
- Take cookies out of the oven when timer goes off. Let cool for five minutes.
- Eat two cookies. They're so good fresh out of the oven. Eat another one for good measure.
- Place cookies in Tupperware container. Leave for your family dinner.
- Walk in the door of your mother's place to find your sister fighting with your racist uncle. Instead of standing up and saying something, walk to the booze counter and make yourself another rum and eggnog.
- Sit on the couch while dinner is being made and avoid socializing. Everyone but you brought homemade treats. Since nobody else is eating your cookies, eat six more.
- Keep drinking in silence. Sit down for dinner and shove turkey into your face.
- When your mother asks how school is going, nod politely and say "Fine." Make sure not to tell her that you dropped out weeks ago.
- Keep dodging pushy questions from your father.
- Start crying when he accuses you of being a good-for-nothing liar. Go into fetal position under the table.
- Congrats, you've just made this dinner awkward for everyone.
- Go home and cry yourself to sleep. Repeat next year.



# New study reveals that 40 per cent of research is done out of spite

> Take that, everyone

Klara Woldenga  
Humour Editor

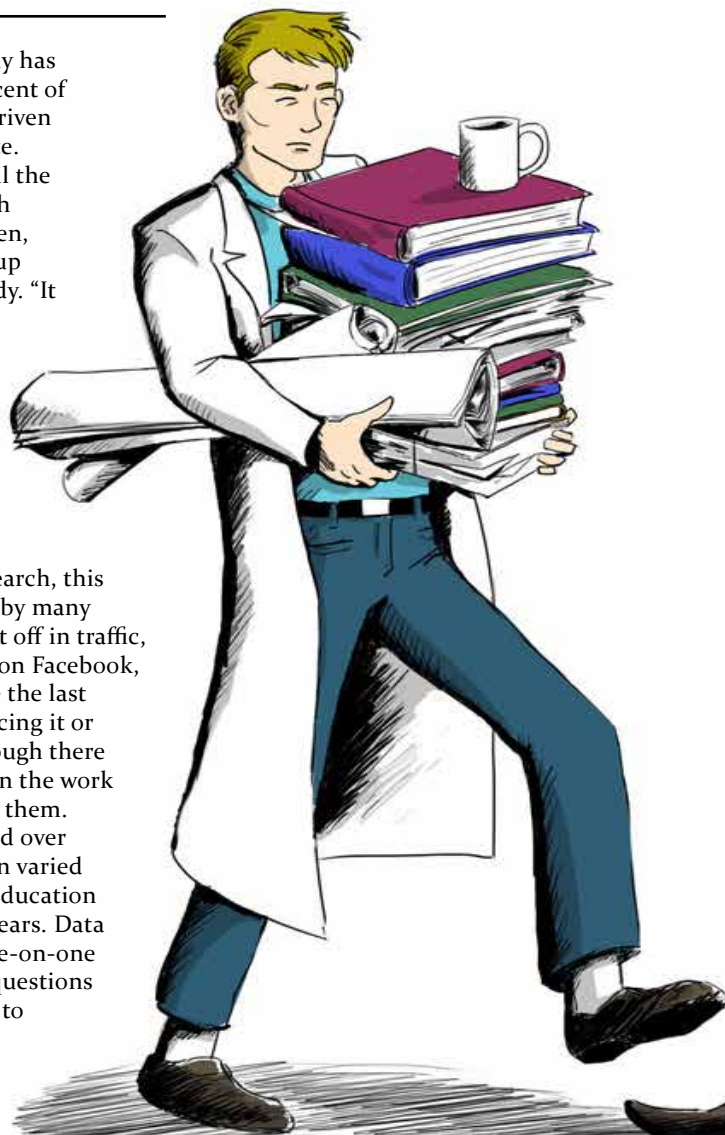
A newly published study has revealed that 40 per cent of all scientific research is driven by a surprising force: Spite.

"After we compiled all the data, it was clear; research doesn't lie," said Jane Alden, head of the scientific group that spearheaded the study. "It seems the prime goal of a lot of scientists isn't to seek further knowledge or the bettering the planet, but to prove someone else wrong due to their own personal emotional baggage."

According to the research, this baggage can be triggered by many things, such as getting cut off in traffic, being wrongly called out on Facebook, or having a co-worker use the last of the milk without replacing it or saying anything, even though there is only one other person in the work space, so it was obviously them.

The study interviewed over 400 Canadian scientists in varied disciplines and levels of education over the course of three years. Data was collected through one-on-one interviews consisting of questions that allowed participants to answer them on a scale of one to ten. The survey also recorded how many times the participants clenched their fists, slammed the table, or shouted at the ceiling "I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!!!"

The study also found that,



ironically, members of the soft sciences (Psychology, Sociology, Political Science) had more zealous, spiteful motivations compared to people



belonging to the hard sciences (Physics, Biology, Mathematics). "This study is ridiculous," stated

Social Psychology scientist at Langara College, Chris Jarden. "We are scientists; there's zero room for ego-based interactions here. The fact that Jack keeps on parking his Hummer in my space and eating part of my lunches despite my protests has no bearing on my recent decision to shift my PhD focus from the psychology of Vancouver bus passengers to how large personal vehicles increases our false sense of entitlement."

The only sample groups unable to be reached for the study were scientists discovering the psychological effects of not answering calls, emails, or texts, along with a small group of scientists studying the global effects of being extremely unhelpful.

"We were really hoping to get data from those two demographics," stated Alden. "But, you have to admire their dedication to the research." Alden is hoping that this research will help scientists take a step back and think about their motivations, as "keeping a clear, revenge-free mind lowers the risk of becoming an evil genius."

When asked what inspired her to do this study, Alden refused to reveal her own reasons stating only that "It's really none of your business. If I answered that question it would take away from the scientific importance of this research."



Illustration by Max Foss



Comic by Nuclear Jackal



# Report: Social epidemic solved after related hashtag trends for seven weeks

> Citizens are relieved, excited that they never have to think about issue again

Jacey Gibb  
Distribution Manager

The place? Your town or city. The mood? Soaring high. That's because earlier this week a new report by the Bureau of Science (B.S.) declared that all those hashtags and Facebook posts you've been witnessing have successfully cured the latest underlying social epidemic after a record-long seven weeks.

"I'll be honest and admit that it was touch-and-go for a while there," says Oliver Wilkens, one of the report's lead researchers. "At first, we were unsure if the alarming social issue could be dealt with using 'hashtag activism,' but as of December 4, we're happy to conclude that it is no longer a threat. Everyone should feel very hashtag

blessed; this is a day for celebrations."

Like #Kony2012, #JeSuisCharlie, and #StopGamergate before it, the hashtag was slow to build, originating back to 2007 by a woman-of-colour activist. But—as is usually the case with politics, lifestyle trends, and social change—without a prominent celebrity lending their voice to the movement, there was no hope of actual change ever being made, concludes the report.

"Mere normal citizens have no power compared to the supernova capabilities of celebrities who, career-wise, peaked in the early 2000s by starring in a show about modern witches with secret human identities," the B.S. Report concludes. "Without these champions of the people, any cause is simply lost."

The report, which was authored by a panel of prestigious, diversely-

educated white men, also includes several recommendations for the next time society is faced with a social epidemic that requires our best and brightest tweeters' attention.

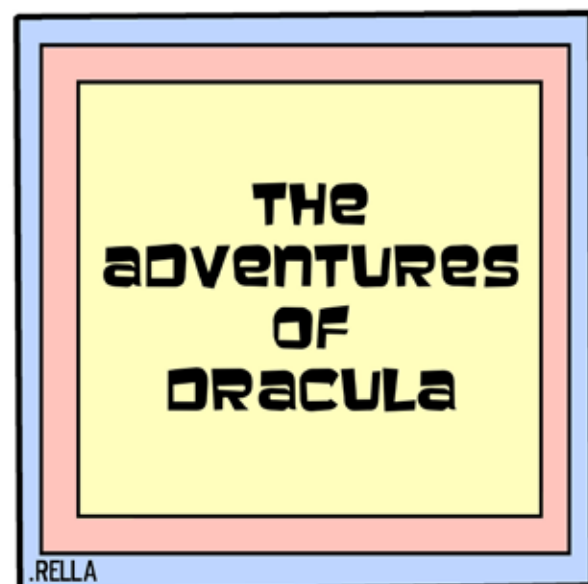
"For the hashtag to achieve full potency, ensure that you don't discuss in-person any aspect of the problematic culture our society is currently living," advises the report. "If you bring up the epidemic in a face-to-face situation it will divert attention away from the hashtag you posted, and will dilute any effectiveness it has. Plus, it can be like, super awkward if you bring up the need for large-scale systemic change, but your pals just wanna have a chill time. So don't mention the issue at hand, okay? Just keep calm and hashtag on."

Vancouverite Bruce Simpson is one of the brave souls who posted a Facebook status during the latest

social epidemic. In early November, Simpson boldly commented on someone else's "#MeToo" status, saying that he "knows several women," which placed him in the unique position of being able to empathize with how marginalized voices felt.

"I'm still in shock that this social crisis apparently exists, but I'm thankful that people are bringing it up. I also think it's important that we hear both sides to this issue so we get a clearer picture. Maybe this epidemic that affects one in three women and one in six men is just an isolated incident? Or maybe it's just this big misunderstanding?"

One thing is for certain: As long as we have comments like Simpson's and hashtag activism, there's no crisis our society can't tweet its way out of.



cartoon by Ed Appleby

Comic by Rella



Wishing you a  
**Happy Holidays**  
from the



**Good luck on your exams  
& enjoy a well-earned break!**

## **DSU HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

The Coquitlam Kiosk will be closed for the holidays as of December 15 at 4:30pm.

The New Westminster office and building will be closed for the holidays as of December 20 at 4:30pm.

The Students' Union will re-open January 3, 2018 at 9:30am.